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COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

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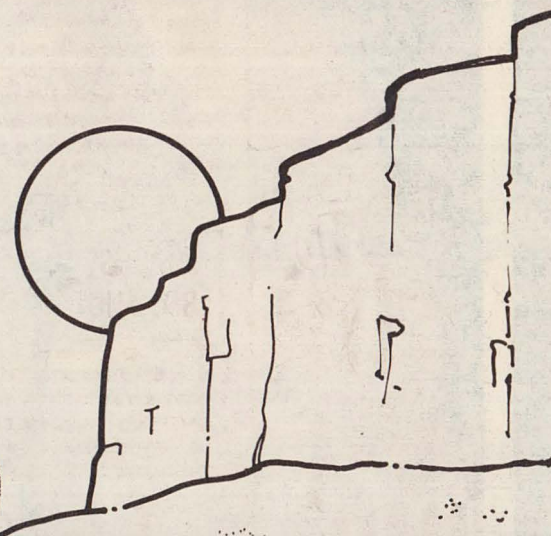
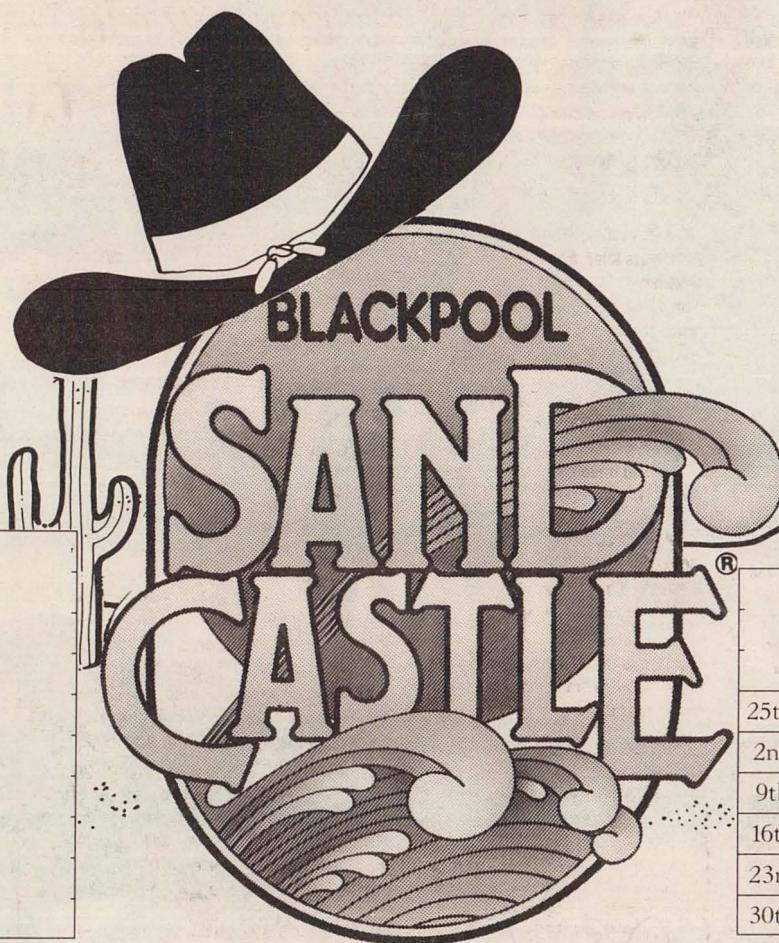
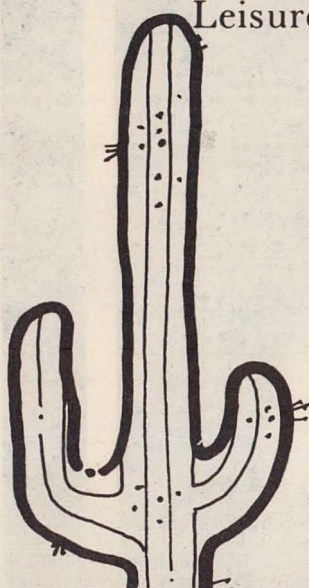
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last month's front cover credit
should have gone to Brian Shelley,
for his Billy Walker photo.

STOP PRESS

● A recent *Billboard* article reports that in the USA, after a long period in decline, country record sales are picking up again, with most of the impetus provided by new acts.

NEWCOMERS INSPIRE RISE IN COUNTRY MUSIC RECORD SALES.

Besides spurring sales, young acts are also bringing the kind of industry-wide excitement to country music that has been missing, since the 'Urban Cowboy' days of the early '80's.

● The excitement has already manifested itself in the nominations for this year's Country Music Association Awards, which were swept by such newcomers as Randy Travis, The Judds, The Forester Sisters, Dwight Yoakham, Kathy Mattea, and George Strait.

● 'You'll notice that all these new acts have one thing in common,' says Bruce Hinton, MCA's senior Vice President and General Manager. 'They're all young, and they seem to be attracting young record buyers'.

● George Strait, who first charted in 1981, is one of MCA's top sales successes. His early albums have gone gold, and his current one is nearing that level, according to Hinton. The Judds, country's best-selling act after the perpetually platinum Alabama, has sold more than two million albums, in less than three years of recording. (Alabama's sales top 22 million albums in its six years as a major label act.)

● Sawyer Brown, a rock/country band, that made its Capitol debut in 1984, continues to be one of that label's most profitable signings. 'Shakin', the Band's newest album, has reportedly sold more than 300,000 units.

● Randy Travis' first album, 'Storms of Life', was No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart for four consecutive weeks and has vaulted into the 80's on the pop charts. The Album is now approaching sales of 400,000, according to Warner Bros' Vice President of promotion, Nick Hunter.

● Travis' stablemate, Dwight Yoakham, has registered sales of almost 300,000 on his Reprise album, 'Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc. Etc'. And a third Warner Bros act, The Forester Sisters, which first recorded in 1985, is said to have sold nearly 200,000 of its initial album and passed the 100,000 mark on the followup, 'Perfume, Ribbons And Pearls'.

● Acceptance of The Foresters was so swift, that three of the singles from the group's debut album went to No. 1 on the country chart.

● At Columbia/Epic, Ricky Skaggs, who made his major-label bow in 1981, can now claim total album sales of more than three million. While the label declines to release sales figures for much-lauded newcomers, Marty Stuart and Sweethearts of the Rodeo, a spokeswoman says, album sales for both acts are at least twice the projected figure.

● Restless Heart's first album for RCA, has sold more than 100,000 copies since it was released early last year, according to the label. Pake McEntire, a more recent addition to RCA's roster, is now said to be approaching 50,000 on his 'Too Old To Grow Up' album.

● MTM Records, itself a 'new act' in town, will not release any sales figures on its two most prominent artists, Judy Rodman and Girls Next Door. Rodman took her 'Until I Met You' to the top of the Hot Country Singles chart in July, and the Girls', 'Slow Boat To China', is at No. 8 on the singles chart this week. MTM President, Howard Stark, says he is 'extremely surprised and pleased' at the level of sales both acts have reached.

● Mercury reports that sales of Kathy Mattea's first two albums were given a boost by the extensive airplay garnered by her most recent single, 'Love At The Five & Dime', which peaked at No. 3. It was the highest Mattea had charted, since her 1983 debut.

● Mattea, The Forester Sisters, Travis, and Yoakham are all contending for the CMA's Horizon Award, along with Dan Seals.

● While the sales cited for new acts are still modest compared to those of many pop newcomers, Warner Bros' Hunter, notes that the country acts are coming on faster.

● A 36 year old man was arrested two hours later, and charged on seven counts, including malicious wounding, possession of a stolen weapon, and possession of cocaine, marijuana, and speed.

● Ricky Skaggs, who was at his Nashville home with his wife Sharon, immediately chartered a plane and travelled to Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

● Andrew Lee Skaggs is the second of Ricky Skaggs' three children; the others are Mandy, aged nine, and Molly, aged two.

Ricky Skaggs cancelled a number of concerts, in order to stay at Andrew's bedside.

SKAGGS' BOY SHOT

● ANDREW Lee Skaggs, the seven year old son of country singer Ricky Skaggs, was the innocent victim of an appalling shooting accident in Virginia, USA.

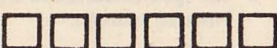
● Andrew was the only passenger in a car being driven on a highway near Roanoke, Virginia, by his mother, Brenda, ex-wife of Ricky Skaggs. At about 9.20 pm the car was overtaking a tractor-trailer rig. As the car drew level with the cab, the driver fired a 38-calibre pistol, which hit Andrew in the face.

John Hurley Dies

John Hurley, composer of 'Love Of The Common People', 'Son Of A Preacher Man', and other successes, has died in Nashville, aged 45. He started in music at four, singing in Pittsburgh bars with his uncle, and was hosting a children's programme, 'Happy Party', when he was nine, as well as singing with the Pittsburgh Opera Company. He began a writing association with Tree Publishing, which continued until his death, and composed over 200 songs.



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AUGUST 'BLANK' HOLIDAY FOR MOST OF THE FESTIVALS!

By Mick Green

● IT did not require anyone to be a genius to guess, in advance, that most of the promoters of the various country music festivals, put on over the August Bank Holiday, would catch a financial cold.

● I managed a visit to The Showboat Nene Valley Country Music Festival, on the Friday night, and the audience was very sparse, but with the lousy weather, I suppose this was to be expected. Promoter, Wendy Lane, later stated that attendances picked up for the three following evening shows, claiming over 1,000 customers at each, although conceding the afternoon crowds were more disappointing. Judging by reports, Foster & Allen had a good reception, The Shack Band, and Little Ginny were singled out for praise by fans I spoke to. Although Wendy has said she was not too disappointed, and stated she had plans to hold the event next year, even with the kind of attendances claimed, it is obvious that this year, it cannot have been anything near a financial success.

● Over the years, Neil Coppendale has persevered with his own All-British Festival, at Worthing, and I am pleased to report, the troubles affecting the other events passed him by. Although they were always looking for smaller numbers than the other events, because of the limitations of the venue, I understand it was a virtual sell-out, and the event gathered a lot of praise for virtually all the acts who appeared.

● The story at the other seaside event, at Morecambe, is more disappointing. Apparently, only Slim Whitman drew anything like a reasonable crowd. The event is reputed to have lost many thousands of pounds, and to add insult to injury, the big top was blown down the following day in the terrible weather which affected all the country. The good news is, that the event will, hopefully, go on, but with a move to June next year, so it will not clash with the other major events.

● Regarding the 3-day event at Norwich, I had no advance information and have heard nothing since, so can make no comment on its success or failure.

● This leaves me with the festival I chose to attend, the Peterborough Country Music Festival, promoted by Jeffery and Howard Kruger. I will say, from the off, that musically, this was the best festival I have ever attended at Peterborough.

Jack Daniels If You Please!

● There was a good presence of the 'Round Up team there over the weekend: Joe Allen, Irene Paterson, Tony Anderson, Pete Smith, Clive Wynes, Jim Duncan, Jim Silverthorn, and the crap (sorry) capped crusaders, Brian Ahern and Pete Coffey. We made contact with lots of old friends, not least of all Jack Daniels, at the 'Round Up Hospitality Tent. One of the nicest aspects of this type of event, is meeting such people, and having a bit of time to have a chat, instead of having to rush off, as usual. As it was sited right next to the 'CMRU' open-air stage, we also had the bonus of being able to listen, along with a really good-sized crowd, to some excellent original country music - that was the only music allowed on stage - British-written country songs presented by British country artistes, and how well they were received.

● As always at major festivals, we have spread the reviews around the various members of the 'CMRU' team, to try and get as varied a report as possible, which is probably a good idea, because for one particular act, I think we all had different opinions. Still, that is what it is all about when you review a show... purely one person's opinion. If you went to the festival, I hope you enjoyed it, if you didn't, you missed a musical treat, as I hope the reviews will show.

A Personal Word of Thanks.

● Without a doubt, this is the festival I will always remember, because it was the one where I decided to redesign the shape of my car, by trying to drive it under a two-foot high pole. I would like to publicly thank the two Brians and Roger, for working so hard to get me back on the road, and to Mary Arnold, for driving me around in the meantime, allowing me to get various interviews etc. But then again, we've always known we've got good friends in country music, haven't we?

'TAKE YOUR HAT OFF TO NEIL' COAST TO COAST BREAKFAST TIME IN USA & BRITAIN

● While all around were losing their heads (or should that be shirts) ... Brighton-based broadcaster, cook, teacher, etc, entrepreneur, Neil Coppendale was, again, doing the business at Worthing as British country music history was made, when a feature on the All British Festival was screened, coast to coast, on American television.

● The American television giants, CBS, who attended this year's (the 9th) Worthing Festival, were apparently impressed enough to film all six acts on the Sunday evening show - a show which producer, Deborah Thomson described as 'spectacular'. The feature, which also included interviews, shot on Worthing Pier, with British Award winning artist, Raymond Froggatt, and organiser, Coppendale, was screened at 8.52 am on CBS Morning News. The reporter was the Senior Washington Correspondent for CBS, Bruce Morton.

● The six acts on the Sunday show were Raymond Froggatt and the Raymond Froggatt Band, from Birmingham; Phil Wallace and Empty Pockets, Llanelli; Ruby Rendall & Cimarron, Aberdeenshire; Geoff Ashford, Yorkshire; Key West, County Durham; and Jan Mark and Norman Russell, Middlesex. The crew also filmed part of George Moody's Afternoon Request Show.

● The Sunday show, like the rest of the six-part weekend, was, says Coppendale, 'an unqualified, commercial and artistic success'.



Coppendale continued, 'This breakthrough takes British country music one step further, and it takes me - possibly - one step nearer to presenting a major British country music festival in America; an objective that I've had ever since the first All British Festival. British country music deserves to be recognised at this level, and if some of the powers that be, inside and outside the country scene in Britain, refuse to acknowledge it with

anything more than token recognition, which they do, we'll have to try and bang the drum abroad, and do it from there. All I want is a sponsor.'

● There was more TV exposure on this side of the Atlantic, for the Worthing Festival, when Bob Newman and Carole Gordon appeared on BBC's 'Breakfast Time', on the Friday morning of the Festival weekend.

INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS SURPRISES ?

by Mick Green

Photos by Jim Silverthorn

● I suppose the old saying that if you are going to do something, do it properly, holds more than an element of truth in it. I feel, in this case, I can say it is true. I know many will feel I am biased, because I write for 'Round Up', but I am a freelance contributor, not exclusively employed by the paper, indeed, as much of my writing about country music appears in the National Weekly Press, as in this publication.

● I felt from the off, the ordinary fan wanted a poll with a large enough participation, to give it credibility. I have not seen the actual figures, but I am assured, nearly 10,000 votes were cast - and that is very big by previous standards, outside of America.

● I had it put to me, before the results were known, that as the readers of only one paper would vote, then there would be a bias towards those acts who regularly advertised in that paper. You only have to study the results and look through back copies, to see there is no truth in that at all.

● So, having done it right from the off, how did it turn out on the night? In my opinion, excellently. The award nominations, and final winners were jointly read out by Lynn Anderson and Ed Bruce, with video acknowledgements. The timing was tight, and the acceptance speeches were really a lesson to everyone in keeping them short. I think everyone ought to be congratulated, particularly Lynn and Ed for managing with some names which were obviously foreign to them.

● The Judds success in America has travelled across the Atlantic, and Wynonna and Naomi were chosen three times by the fans. They took the top award, 'Readers' Choice', as the act which had received the most votes, overall; the International Duo award; and the Most Promising International Act award - which reflects just how far they have come, and how fast. When I first interviewed them, a couple of years ago, they said: 'London? We've only just found our way to Nashville!'. Well, times have changed, and it was announced by British publicist, Tony Byworth, who represents them in Europe and who collected the awards on their behalf, they are planning to appear in Britain, in February 1987.

● The Judds were not unique in being an act, never having actually appeared here, winning an award, because the Most Popular International Group award went to Alabama. Perhaps the winning of it will encourage the group to plan a foray in Britain?

● The Most Popular International Male Artist award went to Ricky Skaggs, who was, no doubt, picking up votes from the popularity of his last two tours here, and the fact that at least he has tried to promote his music, professionally, in Europe. Richard Wootton, who collected on his behalf, said Ricky would be back soon, to appear on 'Wogan', at the very least. Janie Fricke was generally considered to have been one of the successes at this year's Silk Cut Festival, and obviously fans agreed, because she picked up the Most Popular International Female Artist award.

● The above awards were in the International category, but the biggest cheers of the night came, when it was announced that Raymond Froggatt had taken the Most Popular British Male Artist award. Froggie had delighted the audience the night before, and left a video message thanking them all. One big surprise was in the British Female award, with Rose Marie not only lifting this title, but also being presented with a Silver Disc to acknowledge the sales of her recently TV-marketed album. This lovely, bubbling lady was so full of enthusiasm afterwards, she was a pleasure just to watch, and Nashville Network TV, who were filming the event, immediately did a one-to-one interview with her, expressing an interest in her representing Britain at Fan Fair next year, on the international show.

● With so many good British bands around, I would have thought the Most Popular British Group would have been the section which was really wide open, and obviously the Essex-based, Hickory Lake were delighted when their name was announced. Band leader, Vic Woodhouse, told me afterwards: 'I always thought these things were a fiddle... but obviously, I'm convinced now they're not... I mean, we haven't got a fiddle in the band... and even though that may disqualify us from being able to play in Texas, we are available for anywhere else!'



● On a personal note, I can remember Hickory Lake playing at the Crayford Town Hall years ago. Vic is the only one left of that line-up. I've seen the ups and downs for the band, and the way they've worked so hard, trying to please the fans, and think this recognition is great for all five of them.

● Peterborough's own Duffy Brothers, currently taking coals to Newcastle, touring the world and largely the USA with Charley Pride, were awarded the Most Popular British Duo/Trio Award. In their

absence, this award was accepted by Terry McKenna, country DJ for local radio station, Radio Hereward.

● The remaining section was the Most Promising British Act. When Stu Page & Remuda picked this one up, some of the immediate results were Yorkshire TV having Stu on one of their programmes, and appearing in the National Press, by way of the Yorkshire Post's front page. Again, this is an act I can remember saying should have won a talent contest

years ago, but felt they lost because they insisted on singing original songs. It looks like a lot of fans out there, now like those original songs. (There's a message in there somewhere for other bands.)

● Officially, that was the end of the awards, but 'CMRU' Editor, Colin Kettle, made a special presentation to Tony Byworth and Richard Wootton of Byworth-Wootton International, to show appreciation for all the efforts they are making to expand the market for country music in Britain.



Multi award-winning band, Alabama, acclaimed as Most Popular International Group by CMRU readers.

BACK PAGE PICTURE INDEX.

- 1 Lynn Anderson leads the applause for Rose Marie.
- 2 Double surprise... silver disc for Rose Marie's album sales presented by Jim Glaser; also in the picture, genial host and compere, BBC broadcaster, Mick Smith.
- 3 Jim Glaser relates details of the disc.

- 4 Tony Byworth & Richard Wootton acknowledged by Publisher's Special Award for services to country music.
- 5 Special Guest, CMA Executive Director, Mrs Jo Walker-Meador, receives Reader's Choice Award, on behalf of The Judds.
- 6 Stu Page & Remuda acknowledge their applause as Most Promising British Act.

- 7 Tros TV & Country Music Euromasters Director, Mickey Hayes, collects the Most Promising International Act award, on behalf of The Judds.
- 8 Lynn Anderson shares a precious backstage moment with Lindsey St John, of Hickory Lake.
- 9 Vic Woodhouse gathers up the British Group Award for Hickory Lake.



Country Music Round Up Publishing Editors, pose with Publisher's Award recipients, Tony Byworth & Richard Wootton (Byworth/Wootton International) and CMA Executive Director, Jo Walker-Meador. Photo: Ian Tilbury.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Judds

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MOST PROMISING INTERNATIONAL ACT**

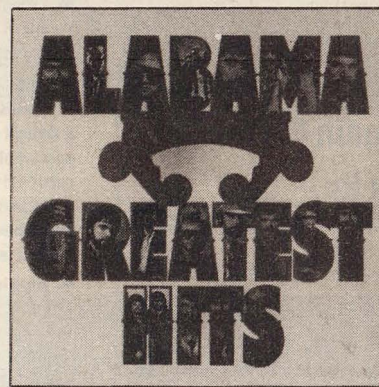
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RCA

If RANDY does not win an award, it will be a TRAVIS ty of justice.

● My informants in Nashville, sent me information in the middle of August about the nominations for this year's CMA's awards, and as the results of 'Round Up's own poll are covered in this edition, I thought it might be of interest to readers, to see where the country music industry is heading when it nominates its own favourites this month.

● I suppose having been so hot for so long, it was obvious that Alabama eventually had to drop out of contention, but I must admit, I found it a bit of a shock that they were not nominated in any of the major categories, but then again, one of the things I like about the American country music industry is, that they always seem to find space for new stars, and acts that were unheard of only a few months ago, are now up for CMA awards.

● The prestigious Entertainer of the Year Award, really only sees Willie Nelson flying the flag for what I describe as the 'old brigade', and the difference between his career (during which he has made more records than Seb Coe) and The Judds - who are also nominated after a couple of albums - could not be more extreme. . . . Last year's Male and Female Award winners, George Strait and Reba McEntire, are also in the group which is completed by the current holder, Ricky Skaggs. I always feel that the title 'entertainer', denotes more than the talent of having a good voice and the ability to put a song over, and therefore, feel that Skaggs should hold on to his crown, but have the feeling that because of his chart success, that this will be George Strait's year.

● In the Group of the Year category, Exile, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, The Forrester Sisters, and The Oak Ridge Boys are all nominated, but the current buzz being generated by The Judds, makes me feel sure they must be favourites to retain the title they won last year.

● George Strait, again, must be the one to beat for those going for the Male Vocalist accolade. The 'old brigade', here, is represented by George Jones; Gary Morris is trying to start a new Dynasty of country super stars; Hank Williams Jr is nominated, but I suspect, as always, he will be the 'bridesmaid and not the bride', because if he couldn't win all those years when he was dominating the country album and singles charts, what chance has he now? But, it's nice to see his new stablemate at Warner Bros,

Randy Travis, shoot virtually from nowhere to get FIVE nominations - and there's no doubt he's country, not country-pop!

● Although Reba McEntire currently rules the roost, as far as the ladies are concerned, I am going to go for an outsider, Rosanne Cash. Why? Simply a hunch influenced by personal choice, but Emmylou Harris and Janie Fricke have both picked up the title in the past and Anne Murray has been successful in other sections.

● The CMA Horizon Award is the newcomer's award, and once again, the name Randy Travis appears in a list that, I think, most of us in the UK will have difficulty in choosing from: Dwight Yoakham, The Forrester Sisters, Dan Seals, and Kathy Mattea. All have made a big impression in America, over the past year, as have several others who have been left out, as there is now a lot of exceptional talent knocking at country music's door.

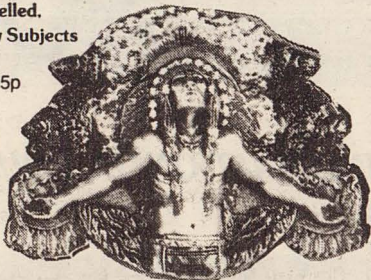
● Song of the Year, sees two of Travis' chart successes nominated, '1982' and 'On The Other Hand'. Dan Seals had the big crossover success of the year with 'Bop', but personally, I feel 'All That Glitters' was a much better country song, but that is ignored. The Judds' 'Grandpa', and Ronnie Milsap's 'Lost In The Fifties Tonight', are two contrasting songs that complete the nominations. 'Bop', 'Grandpa', and 'On The Other Hand' are also nominated in the Single of the Year section, along with George Strait's, 'Nobody In Her Right Mind' and Reba McEntire's, 'Whoever's In New England'.

● Practically all the same names appear again in the Album section. Strait's 'No 7', McEntire's 'Whoever's In New England', The Judds' 'Rockin' With The Rhythm', Milsap's 'Lost In The Fifties Tonight', and he's there again, Randy Travis with 'Storms Of Life'.

● So there you are then, The Judds, with five nominations, will surely pick up something, but for me, it's great to see Randy coming from nowhere to equal them in the nomination stakes, and if he doesn't pick up at least one, then it will be a Travisty of justice! When I returned from a month in the States, earlier this year, I advised readers to watch out for him, because I'm convinced he's one of those acts British country fans will instantly take to their hearts. . . . Let's hope all his albums get released, and he tours, so we can find out.

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CONLEY NO TIME TO ENJOY IT!

● EARL Thomas Conley and his family have moved into their new home near Franklin, Tennessee, but the singer hasn't been around much to enjoy the house, which he designed. In fact, he wasn't even home for the move! It seems Earl was booked solid for the month of August, with a string of dates in, of all places, California. 'It's kind of hard just to swing back through town when you're going from Los Angeles to Red Bluff', Conley said.

● The house, located in 64 acres, is 5,000 square feet, with 11 staircases, an atrium off the foyer, a skylight in the kitchen, and a balcony off each bedroom. The outside of the multi-level structure is western cedar and native stone, interwoven with glass, to give the house a feeling of space.

● What is the singer/songwriter's favourite spot? 'I haven't been home long enough to find one'. 'Right now, I'm just excited about the house being finished and us moving in.'

● While in Los Angeles, Earl Thomas Conley taped 'Dance Fever' and 'Solid Gold'. Duet partner, Anita Pointer, joined him to perform 'Too Many Times', the current single taken from 'Solid Gold'.

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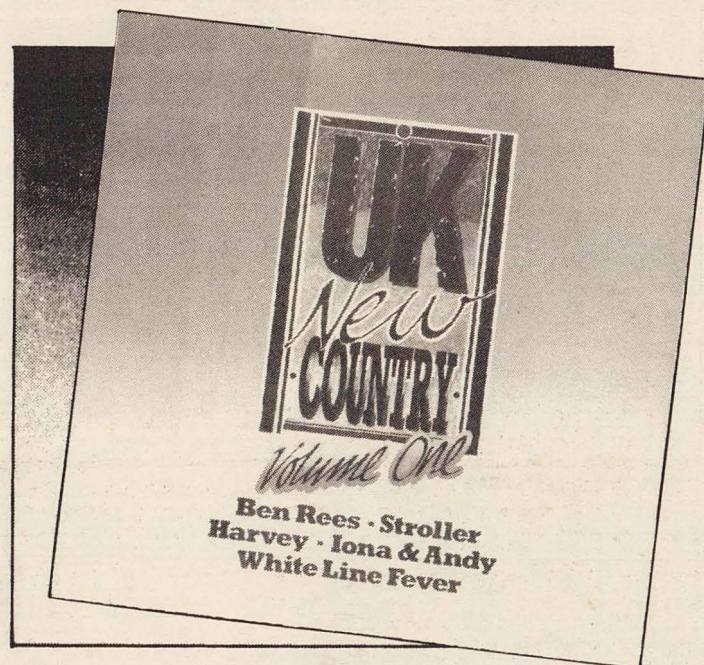
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Harvey -
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Iona & Andy -
Lion in the Winter (3 50)
Stroller -
Other side of the hill (3 06)
Ben Rees -
It'll be her (2 48)
Iona & Andy -
Just in case (2 26)

SIDE TWO

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So you want to be a cowboy singer (2 48)
Stroller -
Long hard road (3 18)
Iona & Andy -
I don't have the heart (3 53)
White Line Fever -
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You beat all I ever saw (2 59)
Harvey -
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ALBUMS

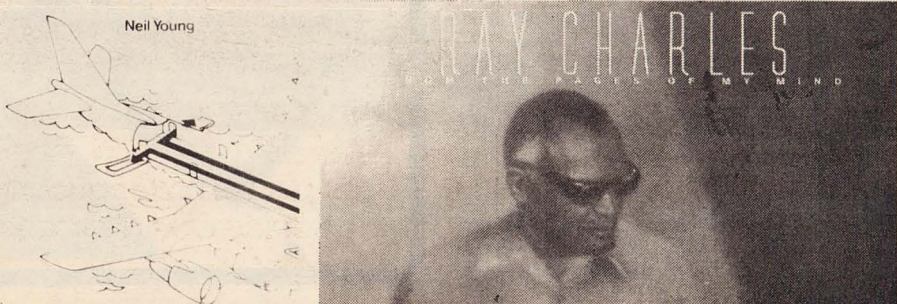
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	ARTIST LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)*	TITLE
				Compiled from a national sample of retail store and one-stop sales reports.	
				★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★	
1	1	1	9	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 1-25412/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	MONTANA CAFE
2	2	2	13	RANDY TRAVIS WARNER BROS. 1-25435 (8.98)	STORMS OF LIFE
3	3	4	15	GEORGE STRAIT MCA 5750 (8.98)	#7
4	4	7	8	JANIE FRICKE COLUMBIA FC 40383	BLACK & WHITE
5	5	3	44	THE JUDDS RCA/CURB AHL1-7042/RCA (8.98) (CD)	ROCKIN' WITH THE RHYTHM
6	6	5	23	DWIGHT YOAKAM REPRISE 25372/WARNER BROS. (8.98)	GUITARS, CADILLACS, ETC., ETC.
7	7	6	29	REBA MCENTIRE MCA 5691 (8.98) (CD)	WHOEVER'S IN NEW ENGLAND
8	8	8	8	EXILE EPIC FE 40401	GREATEST HITS
9	9	9	15	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 422-826 782-1 M/POLYGRAM (8.98)	FOUR FOR THE SHOW
10	10	11	15	NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND WARNER BROS. 1-25382 (8.98)	TWENTY YEARS OF DIRT
11	12	12	30	ALABAMA RCA AHL1-7170 (8.98) (CD)	GREATEST HITS
12	11	10	24	RONNIE MILSAP RCA AHL1-7194 (8.98) (CD)	LOST IN THE FIFTIES TONIGHT
13	15	24	20	STEVE EARLE MCA 5713 (8.98)	GUITAR TOWN
14	14	18	64	ROSANNE CASH COLUMBIA FC 39463	RHYTHM AND ROMANCE
15	13	14	26	MERLE HAGGARD EPIC 40286	A FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA
16	21	21	5	SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO COLUMBIA 40406	SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO
17	19	19	20	EDDIE RABBITT RCA AHL1-7041 (8.98)	RABBITT TRAX
18	17	15	14	CARL PERKINS, JERRY LEE LEWIS, ROY ORBISON, & JOHNNY CASH AMERICA/SMASH 830 002-1 M1/POLYGRAM (8.98)	CLASS OF '55
19	30	35	3	CRYSTAL GAYLE WARNER BROS. 1-25405	STRAIGHT TO THE HEART
20	20	25	13	T GRAHAM BROWN CAPITOL ST 12487 (8.98)	I TELL IT LIKE IT USED TO BE
21	22	22	78	GEORGE STRAIT MCA 5567 (8.98) (CD)	GEORGE STRAIT'S GREATEST HITS
22	24	33	40	STEVE WARINER MCA 5672 (8.98)	LIFE'S HIGHWAY
23	16	16	7	RAY CHARLES COLUMBIA FC 40338	FROM THE PAGES OF MY MIND
24	18	20	22	WILLIE NELSON COLUMBIA FC 40327	THE PROMISELAND
25	28	65	3	LEE GREENWOOD MCA 5770	LOVE WILL FIND ITS WAY TO YOU
26	26	41	11	KEITH WHITLEY RCA CPL1-7043 (8.98)	L.A. TO MIAMI
27	43	—	2	RAY STEVENS MCA 5789	SURELY YOU JOUST
28	23	13	24	WAYLON JENNINGS MCA 5688 (8.98) (CD)	WILL THE WOLF SURVIVE
29	32	46	6	JIMMY BUFFETT MCA 5730 (8.98)	FLORIDAYS
30	27	27	70	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 824-420-1/POLYGRAM (8.98)	PARDNERS IN RHYME

FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 1986

SINGLES

Reproduced Courtesy Of Billboard Publications Inc.

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	ARTIST LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
				Compiled from a national sample of retail store and one-stop sales reports and radio playlists.	
				★ ★ No. 1 ★ ★	
1	3	5	15	GOT MY HEART SET ON YOU B. LOGAN (D. GRAY, B. REANE)	JOHN CONLEE COLUMBIA 38-06104
2	4	7	12	IN LOVE R. MILSAP, T. COLLINS, R. GALBRAITH (M. REID, B. DEES)	RONNIE MILSAP RCA 14365
3	1	4	13	LITTLE ROCK J. BOWEN, R. MCENTIRE (P. MCMAHON, B. DIERPHE, G. HOUSE)	REBA MCENTIRE MCA 52848
4	6	10	13	ALWAYS HAVE ALWAYS WILL N. WILSON (J. MEARS)	JANIE FRICKE COLUMBIA 38-06144
5	7	12	12	LOVELY ALONE J. L. WALLACE, T. SKINNER (J. D. MARTIN, J. JARRARD)	THE FORESTER SISTERS WARNER BROS. 7-28687
6	8	11	11	GUITARS, CADILLACS P. ANDERSON (D. YOAKAM)	DWIGHT YOAKAM REPRISE 28688/WARNER BROS.
7	9	15	11	BOTH T' EACH OTHER (FRIENDS & LOVERS) R. LANDIS (J. GRUSKA, P. GORDON)	EDDIE RABBITT & JUICE NEWTON RCA 14377
8	12	17	11	JUST ANOTHER LOVE J. CRUTCHFIELD (P. DAVIS)	TANYA TUCKER CAPITOL 5604
9	10	13	14	TEN FEET AWAY B. MEVIS (T. SEALS, B. SHERRILL, M. D. BARNES)	KEITH WHITLEY RCA 14363
10	13	18	14	GUITAR TOWN E. GORDY, JR., T. BROWN (S. EARLE)	STEVE EARLE MCA 52856
11	16	19	9	CRY J. E. NORMAN (C. KOHLMAN)	CRYSTAL GAYLE WARNER BROS. 7-28689
12	5	6	14	STAND A LITTLE RAIN M. MORGAN, P. WORLEY (D. SCHLITZ, D. LOWERY)	NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND WARNER BROS. 7-28690
13	17	20	10	SECOND TO NO ONE D. MALLORY (R. CASH)	ROSANNE CASH COLUMBIA 38-06159
14	2	2	15	COUNTRY STATE OF MIND H. WILLIAMS, JR., B. BECKETT, J. E. NORMAN (H. WILLIAMS, JR., R. A. WADE)	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 7-28691/WARNER BROS.
15	18	21	9	IT'LL BE ME B. KILLEN (S. LEMAJER, J. P. PENNINGTON)	EXILE EPIC 34-06229
16	20	22	8	TOO MANY TIMES N. LARKIN, M. WRIGHT (M. SMOTHERMAN, S. PAGE, T. MCSHEAR)	EARL THOMAS CONLEY AND ANITA POINTER RCA 14380
17	21	23	11	YOU CAN'T STOP LOVE J. STROUD (P. OVERSTREET, T. SCHUYLER)	SCHUYLER, KNOBLOCK & OVERSTREET MTM 72071/CAPITOL
18	22	24	9	DOO-WAH DAYS N. WILSON, M. GILLEY (E. HUNNICUTT, D. GILMORE, G. VINCENT)	MICKEY GILLEY EPIC 34-06184
19	23	26	7	DIDN'T WE J. CRUTCHFIELD (G. LYLE, T. SEALS)	LEE GREENWOOD MCA 52896
20	24	29	6	DIGGIN' UP BONES K. LEHNING (P. OVERSTREET, A. GORE)	RANDY TRAVIS WARNER BROS. 7-28649

US SURVEY:
CMA REVEAL
SHAKE UP
NEEDED

● WITHIN his Nashville Scene column, in Billboard Magazine, recently Gerry Wood wrote: country music has a lot of congenial ground to grow in, according to a study commissioned by the Country Music Association. But the down side of the up report confirms that this musical genre needs to upgrade both its image and content.

● These are some of the selected findings the CMA released from research conducted by Market Data Corp. of Chicago.

● According to the CMA, five out of every ten consumers surveyed, claimed they strongly prefer country music, and that this liking, although strongest among respondents aged 45 to 54, was substantial for those aged 18 to 24.

● The study involved interviews with 238 men and 248 women, between the ages of 18 and 54. Subjects were selected from shopping mall traffic in San Diego, Seattle, Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Pittsburgh, Birmingham, Jacksonville, and Memphis. To qualify for the hour-long interviews, subjects had to be white, and have purchased a record within the past three months.

● The CMA news release claims that almost 80% of those interviewed have perceived changes in country music - 54% rated the music 'very much better' in terms of its popularity, 49% in terms of what it sounds like, and 47% in terms of who performs it.

● The CMA release adds that 23% of consumers prefer country music and 22% reject it out of hand. 'Soft rock listeners are prime country prospects,' the report says, 'and four out of every ten consumers want to hear a mixture of country and soft rock sounds.' (Are you listening producers?)

● The study concludes that country music and those who perform it 'need to be more glamorous', (are you listening artists?) that there should be more 'depth and poetry' to the lyrics, (are you listening songwriters?) and that it should fulfil the consumers' desire to be 'touched and uplifted' (are you buying, consumers?).

● What all this boils down to, is that the results give a positive and uplifting touch to a music form that has been going through more than its share of transition lately.

● Congratulations to the CMA for all it has achieved, and at the same time, a challenge to the CMA to confront creatively all of the problems and potentialities it faces.

EUROPEAN SCENE



● The Country Music Association has re-affirmed its international commitment, by appointing a non-American as Director of European Operations. Martin Satterthwaite, previously with CBS, Island and MCA Records, succeeds Cynthia Leu, who recently returned to the US to join RCA International.

RECENT U.K.
RELEASES

KITTY WELLS — Kitty's Choice — Stetson HAT 3018/HATC 3018

THE WILBURN BROTHERS — The Wilburn Brothers' Show — Stetson HAT 3017/HATC 3017

DON WILLIAMS — Greatest Hits Vol. I — Hallmark SHM 3193/HSC 3193

THE BROWNS — Looking Back To See — Bear Family/Rollercoaster BFX 15190/-

JOHNNY CASH — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54938/40-54938

DAVID ALAN COE — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54945/40-54945

COUNTRY LADY — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54942/40-54942

MERLE HAGGARD — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54944/40-54944

GEORGE JONES — I Love Country — CBS (France) 454941/40-54941

JERRY LEE LEWIS — The Killer 1963-68. (Boxed set) — Bear Family/Rollercoaster 10BFX 15210/-

JERRY LEE LEWIS — The Wild One — Sun SUN LP 1044/-

JERRY LEE LEWIS — Good Rockin' Tonight — Ditto DTO 10248

CONNIE FRANCIS — Love 'n' Country — Contour CN 2081/CN4 2081

JANIE FRICKE — The Very Best Of — CBS (France) 26671/40-26671

MERLE HAGGARD — A Friend Of California — CBS (France) 26876/40-26876

MERLE HAGGARD — I'm A Lonesome Fugitive — See For Miles SEE 49/-

GEORGE HAMILTON IV — Canadian Pacific — Camden CDS 1220/CAM 1220

BUDDY HOLLY — The Best Of Buddy Holly — Hallmark SHM 3199/HSC 3199

GEORGE JONES — Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes — CBS (France) 26696/-

RED FOLEY — The Red Foley Show — Stetson HAT 3016/HATC 3016

VARIOUS — Country Superstars — Ditto DTO 10247

MARTY ROBBINS — After Midnight — Hallmark SHM 3197/HSC 3197

MARTY ROBBINS — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54940/40-54940

VARIOUS — Country Duets — CBS (France) 54947/40-54947

WILLIE NELSON & FRIENDS — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54946/40-54946

CHARLIE RICH — I Love Country — CBS (France) 54939/40-54939

ROUND UP NEWS FILE

NOTICE
TO ALL READERS

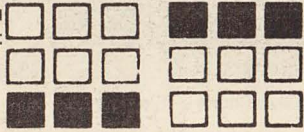
Country Music Round Up, with its November issue realises the 10th anniversary of the publication.

For Country Music Round Up it also signals the next step in its development. We are embarking upon a marketing plan, which will widen the interest of the paper, for you, the Reader, and for our advertisers.

Country Music Round Up regards you as friends and we shall need to find out more about you, to help introduce new articles, features and supplements, to take us through the next 10 exciting years.

Country Music Round Up, next month, features its 10th Birthday Readers' Survey, in its bumper Anniversary Edition. Let us know more about you!

THE WORDS THAT
GO WITH THE MUSIC



Tri-Son News

THE WORDS THAT GO WITH THE MUSIC

ARTISTS ON THE MOVE

Ray Price to the Jim Halsey Co, Tulsa, for worldwide representation: Keith Whitley has joined Buck Owens, Lynn Anderson, Darrell Clanton, Alex Houston & Elmer, Chuck Woolery, Tari Hensley, Shelly West, David Frizzell, Allen Frizzell and Sonny James at McFadden & Associates, Nashville: Billy Crash Craddock to Top Billing International, Nashville: Pake McEntire to Bobby Roberts Entertainment, Nashville: Steve Dahl, formerly with Halsey Company, has opened the Monterrey Artists Agency, at 33 Music Square West, 106-B Nashville, TN, 37212. Dahl is currently handling Vince Gill, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Juice Newton: Judy Rodman was on the phone recently to say she is in the process of setting up her own fan club, and has just signed with Buddy Lee Attractions. Also signed at Buddy Lee, are Riders In The Sky: Slim Whitman, Byron Whitman, Carl Perkins, Gus Hardin, Ace Cannon, and Terry Gibbs are among the acts who can be booked through Spotlight Enterprises Ltd, 221 West 57th Street, New York, NY, 10019.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tom T Hall's fourth published novel, 'The Acts Of Life', will hit the book stores this month. Published by the University of Arkansas Press, the book is a collection of short stories dealing with everyday people. Several book stores in the Nashville area, will be hosting autograph parties. Loretta Lynn has been awarded the Carl Sandburg Award, by the prestigious International Platform Association. Oak Ridge Boys' second Christmas album, entitled 'Christmas Again' hits the streets of America, this month. Joe Bonsall, who has concentrated on sharpening his songwriting skills, penned two tunes for the LP: 'First Christmas Day', and 'It's Christmas Time'. Actually, Bonsall submitted a third song, but received a 'rejection slip' from the other Oaks, who just flat-out stuffed it! It was named, 'Uncle Luther Made The Stuffing', and it flew about as well as the Christmas turkey. However, in the credits on the back of the album sleeve, a line will read: 'Thanks to Uncle Luther for making the stuffing'.

MORE NEWS BRIEFS

Merle Haggard has been embroiled of late in several 'no shows', which will reportedly land him in court, and has cancelled a number of scheduled concerts as well. Ray Price was booked to replace Haggard at the New Mexico State Fair, in Albuquerque, on September 19, and the fair is 'considering filing suit against Haggard', who was leading all other headlines in ticket sales, at the time of the cancellation. 'Illness and exhaustion' are the reasons cited for Haggard's problems. His long-time mentor/manager, Lewis Talley, died recently, on Haggard's houseboat in California; financial woes have forced him to sell his beloved Silverthorn resort, and insiders speculate marital problems are adding to the burden. Danny Davis & The Nashville Brass worked the Elkhart County Fair in Goshen, IN, for the ninth consecutive year, on July 21. Without fail, each time they have been on stage, performing 'Wabash Cannonball', a train has passed by... for nine straight years! Dolly Parton will be headlining at the Golden Nuggett, Atlantic City, NJ, on 17-19 October, returns there 4-7 December, then moves out to Las Vegas to work for the Nuggett there, 11-13 December. Danny Cooksey is getting ready to do an ABC-TV special with Parton, tentatively entitled, 'Dolly Christmas'. Henry (The Fonz) Winkler is directing. Danny will guest on 'Puttin' On The Kids', on 1 and 28 November; was recently in Canada to do a Hasbro Toy commercial. Little Richie Johnson reports Carlos Quintas, the Portugese singer, for whom he had just produced an album, remains in critical condition, following a head-on collision in Arizona. Tommy Thomason, also seriously injured in an auto accident of late, is doing well. Hank Thompson, celebrating his 40th year in country music, has just released a new MCA/Dot album, on which he is joined by a number of 'friends' including fellow-Texan, George Strait. Thompson has appointed Kris Black VP of Promotion for his music interests. Kris, formerly Promotion Director for Buck Owens Enterprises, in Bakersfield, CA, was nominated by Billboard magazine as Promotion Director of the Year, in 1972, and is delighted to be back in the business of country music. Contact her at 13140 Coit Road, 301 Dallas, Tx 75240. Patty Loveless' debut album for MCA, is due for January release; a new single is scheduled for October.

● Mel Tillis has renewed his association with the Jim Halsey Co for exclusive worldwide representation. Mel drew 16,220 to the Cowlitz County Fair in Longview, WA, 20 July, setting a new attendance record for that fair's Wednesday night shows. He sold out two shows at the Richland County Fair, in Sydney, MT.

● More details on that film where Freddy Fender has landed a role in Robert Redford's new film, 'The Milagro Beanfield War'. Based on the book by John Nichols, the film tells the story of a water rights war in New Mexico. Making his film debut, Freddy will play the part of Sammy Cantu, Mayor of Milagro. Release date for the film is expected in the autumn of 1987.

● Andrew Lee Skaggs, the 7 year-old son of Ricky Skaggs and his first wife, Brenda, continues to improve, following two operations to repair wounds sustained when he was shot in the face by a truck driver. Mrs Skaggs stated she was driving on I-81 in western Virginia, when a truck, driven by Edward Dean Duehring, 36, of Germantown, MD, pulled from the side of the road, in front of her car, and she followed it for a few yards through a construction area. Then, she said, the truck got into the right lane and she went into the left lane. But when the truck started weaving into her lane, she blew her horn and tried to go around it. That is when the shot was fired, although she was not immediately aware there had been a gunshot. She asked her son whether the trucker had thrown something into the car. At the same time, the youngster collapsed into her lap, saying he had been hit. The bullet entered through the upper lip, damaging five teeth, cutting the tongue and left tonsil, before lodging in his neck, narrowly missing the child's jugular vein. Three of the lost teeth were baby teeth and will grow back, but dental work will be required to replace two permanent front teeth. Damage to the face was minimal. A second operation was required to repair damage in the carotid artery, which serves as the main conduit of blood to the left side of the brain. Duehring was charged with malicious wounding, shooting into an occupied vehicle, possession of a stolen weapon, possession of cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana, and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Preliminary hearings on the charges are set for 25 and 26 September. Cards and messages may be directed to Andrew, in care of his Dad's fan club president, Sandra Rasonover, PO Box 121799, Nashville TN 37212-1799.

● Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson are set to co-host the 20th annual Country Music Awards Show on 13 October. The 90-minute programme will be carried on CBS with a stereo simulcast on the Mutual Broadcasting System. Wynonna and Naomi, The Judds, and Reba McEntire, each garnered five nominations in this year's balloting. George Strait, and newcomer Randy Travis captured four apiece. Recent multiple award winners, Alabama, are out of the running, though their 'Greatest Video Hits' on RCA/Columbia Home Video Musicvision label has just been certified platinum... and that means 50,000 units sold. In the words of one of our favourite journalists, Robert K Oermann, of 'The Tennessean', 'The 1986 CMA nominations are striking, because of the stellar names left out, as voters turned toward the 'New Breed' of country stars.' We join Oermann in wondering whether CMA may have 'thrown the baby out with the bath water?' In an attempt to give recognition to the unsung instrumentalists of Music Row, the organisation has eliminated Chet Atkins and the rest of the most famous pickers in Nashville, from its awards competition this year. With the recent eligibility changes, 'a musician must have played on at least one album or single that has appeared on the Top 10'. While we realise rule changes are essential in the on-going business of country music, we fail to understand how masters, such as Atkins, who reaped considerable success this year as a jazz artist, can be ineligible to compete as Instrumentalist of the Year. As Oermann pointed out, it has become an 'Accompanying Musicians Award' in 1986.

● Besides being Lee Greenwood's date of birth, 27 October marks Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, and Navy Day. It is also the day Greenwood will be the special guest of the US Navy, aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, in Newport News, VA, for commissioning celebrations of the nation's 71st aircraft carrier. The nuclear vessel is the newest and best-equipped in the fleet, extending for over three football fields and housing more than 3,000 sailors. Greenwood was chosen by the crew of the Roosevelt, to be their Mascot, and to headline the Commissioning Ball, at the Virginia Beach Pavilion.

● A twin-engined plane carrying Glen Campbell made a belly landing on 8 August, at a Phoenix, AZ, airport, after the pilot forgot to lower the landing gear. Friction between the plane and the runway, reportedly caused a small fire on board the aircraft, but there were no injuries among the handful of passengers.

● Gene Weed, West Coast TV producer, has been re-elected President of the Academy of Country Music, in Los Angeles. Cliffie Stone, long-time promoter/producer, is the new Vice President. Rose Vargas has been re-elected Secretary, Selma Williams as Treasurer. Dave Douds, of the West Coast Morris Agency, was elected to a two-year term on the Board as Manager/Booker.

● A last-minute loss of corporate sponsorships caused the cancellation of the Salute to the Future Farmers of America, scheduled at Arrowhead Stadium, in Kansas City, MO, on 2 August. Some fifty acts were committed to perform, including Alabama, Conway Twitty, Gene Watson, John Conlee, Ronnie McDowell, and John Anderson. The show is being rescheduled for sometime in 1987.

● Bill Anderson reports they are getting ready to tape new segments of The Nashville Network's popular 'Fandango' show, in November. There will be several changes in the set, the way the game is played, and most of all, in the prizes. 'We'll be giving away cars, boats, fur coats, and the like, and that's exciting,' says Anderson.

● Texas native, Johnny Rodriguez, is helping clean up the highways of his home state. The bilingual entertainer taped an original song entitled, 'Don't Mess With Texas', for radio and TV spots for both English and Spanish stations, to help draw attention to the campaign to tidy up the state's roadsides. Johnny was honoured by Keep America Beautiful System Inc, on 1 August, during an appearance in Corpus Christi, for his role in the campaign. The song won the Award of Excellence, for the state of Texas, as the top pace-setter in litter reduction and beautification, as well as the Governor's Community Achievement Award, and \$130,000 to use for local beautification of the highway system.

● Loretta Lynn will take her show on another USO-DOD tour, this autumn. Scheduling and itinerary have not been announced, but the troupe is set to depart the USA in November. Charles E Perrings, Entertainment Director of the Macoupin County Fair, in Carlinville, IL, reported Loretta broke the previous attendance record there, 'despite the hottest weather and highest humidity anyone can remember'.

● The Folgers Wakin' Up Country Concert Tour, starring T G Sheppard, Ronnie Milsap, and Dwight Yoakham kickoff show is in Dallas, and moves on to Austin, Baton Rouge, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Houston, and San Antonio. This is the first-ever Folgers sponsored concert tour, and marks the first association with the coffee-maker for Milsap and Yoakham. Sheppard, however, is no stranger to the Folgers scene. He is in his second year as Official Spokesman for T G Sheppard's Folgers Racing Team, which now ranks third in the overall NASCAR standings. The coffee company has, in fact, launched a second fan club for T G; the first being handled by Nancy Van Putte, PO Box 50727, Nashville, TN, 37205. Although, many artists have corporate sponsors, this is the first time one has actually set up a fan club for one. Folgers offers a racing cap, coffee canister, an official race team photograph, and a membership certificate, as part of the package.

● Janie Fricke's 150 year-old home in Lancaster, TX, has been dedicated as a Texas National Landmark, by the state's Landmark Historical Society. Originally owned by the Lawrey family, Pat Garrett, the sheriff, who gained renown by killing Billy the Kid, lived with the family during his teenage years. Janie and her husband, Randy Jackson, bought the house in 1981 from members of the Lawrey clan, and have completely renovated the place.

● Tammy Wynette, celebrating her 20th anniversary in the music business, has reunited with producer/mentor, Billy Sherrill, for her recently-released Epic single, 'Alive and Well'. The twosome is now at work on her 50th career album, forty of which have been produced by Sherrill.

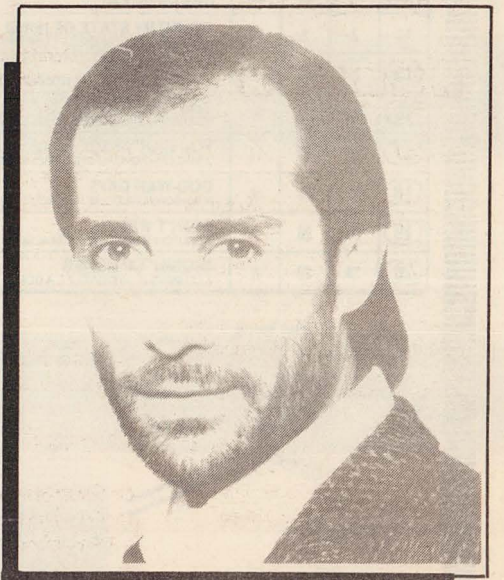
● The first Hank Williams Jr Candies appeared on the shelves of Kaw-Liga Korners, a retail shop, which is part of his business complex in Paris, TN. The sweets include homemade peanut brittle, and pecan divinity. The store also offers over 300 various Hank Jr souvenirs for sale, and the Six Shooter Gun Store, displaying 75 of his personal guns, with some being offered for sale or trade. Catalogues depicting the merchandise are free, and can be obtained by writing to PO Box 850, Paris, TN, 38242.

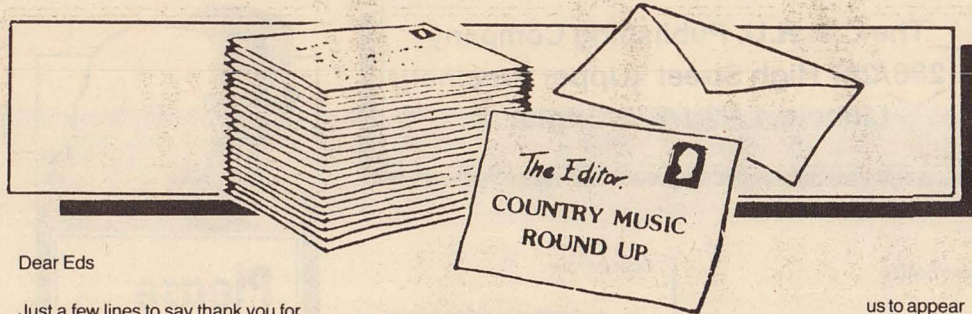
● Justin Tubb has been working closely with a Canadian-based production company, on a documentary film about the life and career of his Dad, Ernest Tubb. The completed documentary is expected to debut as a video with a TV airing in early 1987 as well.

Didja' know... Earl Thomas Conley cites his earliest signs of creativity as being when he carved toys out of wood, to trade with kids, for their store-bought ones. Adds ETC, 'I studied books about art, and took art classes in high school. Later I studied under a man who had gone to the Chicago Art Institute. Most of my paintings were landscapes and portraits. I did quite a few charcoals, grades of lead, then pen and ink.' The Conleys have just moved into their new home near Franklin, TN, which Earl designed. Earl and duet partner, Anita Pointer, have taped an appearance on Solid Gold to air in the autumn.

● Dwight Yoakham returned from his overseas trek 'just in time' to perform at the Kansas State Fair, in Hutchinson, on 10 September.

● Conway Twitty and Dotty West have both been filmed for viewing on 'Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous'. Dottie will also appear in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, on 27 November.





Dear Eds

Just a few lines to say thank you for your coverage in your great magazine. I would like to thank all my fans for their loyal support, and say how much I enjoyed meeting them all, especially my Fan Club members.

I really enjoyed my stay in your beautiful country and hope it is not too long before I can get to meet you all again.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely
Billy Walker
Nashville, Tennessee.

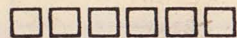


Dear Eds

I am extremely excited to learn of my receiving the award for Most Popular International Female.

This award, coupled with the warm reception I received last year on the Wembley tour, certainly makes Great Britain a welcome, second home. Please convey my sincere thanks to all the European country music fans.

Sincerely
Janie Fricke
Lancaster, Texas, USA.

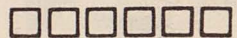


Dear Editors

As it was our great pleasure to be at the Peterborough Country Music Festival as the proud recipients of the Most Popular British Band award, may I, on behalf of the band, sincerely thank 'CMRU' and the Kruger Organisation, for the excellent way in which the whole presentation ceremony was conducted.

For once, the British acts involved were made to feel equal to our American counterparts, in every way, both back- and on stage. How refreshing it was that we didn't have to 'buy our way in' to the artistes bar, or sneak into the courtesy suite, or share a dressing room with the sound crew, the lighting engineers, the security staff, the St John's Ambulance team and lost children! How nice to stand side by side, chatting to Ed Bruce, Lynn Anderson etc, in such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and actually feel that we deserved to be there.

To all involved, again, thanks.
Vic Woodhouse, Hickory Lake,
5 Kingsland, Harlow, Essex.



Dear Editors

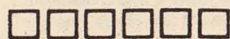
I would just like to say a few words of thanks to you and all Country Music Round Up readers, for the award which we received at the Peterborough Festival. As a relatively new band to the national country music scene, this is the first major award we've won, and therefore, marks a milestone in our career.

More importantly, it has shown us that we have a lot of loyal friends up and down this country, without whom, we are nothing.

We hope to thank all of them personally, and look forward to seeing them soon.

Finally, we would like to compliment the Kruger Organisation in conjunction with 'CMRU', for staging a marvellous event.

Yours sincerely
Stu Page
On behalf of Stu Page & Remuda
c/o 4 Kingsdale Gardens
Drighlington, Bradford
West Yorks



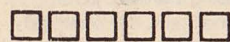
Dear Country Music Round Up

Both Richard and myself are deeply grateful for the 'Publisher's Award' presented to us at the Peterborough Festival, in recognition of our efforts in developing the country music market in Britain. Of course, such a task is made easier when backed by the co-operative support of the media and, of course, working with a talented, highly creative roster of artistes, who are all keen in establishing their reputations in this marketplace.

On behalf of The Judds and Ricky Skaggs, we'd also like to sincerely thank your readers for their votes - as well as the nominations received for all the other acts we've been associated with during the past year, namely (in alphabetical order) Bobby Bare, The Bellamy Brothers, Exile, The Moody Brothers, The Oak Ridge Boys, The Statlers, George Strait and Dwight Yoakham.

Once again, many thanks for the awards, and we look forward to making even more people aware of country music, and our artistes, during the next twelve months. We're out to win the Publisher's Award again in 1987!

With best wishes
Byworth-Wootton International
34 York Road
New Barnet
Herts. EN5 1LJ



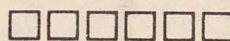
Dear Editors

On behalf of the lads in the band, Dave, Steve and Barry, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting us down to this year's Peterborough Festival to play, and showcase our own, original brand of country music. The experience was absolutely invaluable, and also the chance of meeting a lot of very knowledgeable and friendly people, who were prepared to give us a listen.

As I pointed out, on the main stage, on the Monday, it was our 21st gig, and we couldn't have hoped for a more fitting and prestigious 21st celebration.

Once again, on behalf of Red Moon Joe, Thank you!

Yours sincerely
Mark Wilkinson
Red Moon Joe
11 Mill Street, Wheelton
Chorley, Lancs



Dear Editors

On behalf of the Hank West Band, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for making it possible for

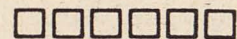
us to appear on the 'CMRU' Outside Showcase of British Artistes Performing Original Material, at the recent Peterborough Festival. We were delighted at our reception and certainly made many new friends. We were equally delighted to receive payment towards our expenses

The event offered a unique opportunity, for those of us involved in writing new material, to show that original British country music is not just a dream. Given the right sponsorship, this event could grow to become a major force in establishing a 'new wave' within Britain's country music scene, resulting in greater recognition for home-grown artistes

Assuring you of our continued support for any future ventures.

Yours sincerely
'Working together for British country music.'

The Hank West Band
Dundee.

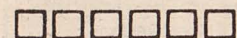


Dear Editors

Re Peterborough Country Music Festival 'Outside Showcase'.

Here's yet another song for you to listen to. Thought you might like to know Acuff Rose are interested in 'Daddy Can't Stop The Rain', for Paul Richey, if I rewrite the chorus, which I'm working on at the moment.

All the Best
Mick Gordon
2 Ravendale Close
Grantham, Lincs



Dear Editors

May I take up a little of your time to express my gratitude for the way that the Festival promoters and your paper, set up a stage at the Peterborough Festival, solely for the use of British artistes to perform their own self-penned songs.

I, as an entertainer and song writer for many years now, was glad to be given the chance to perform my own songs, at such an event, as were the other acts who took up your offer.

For those writers who did not use this offer, it was their loss and a loss to British country music. For many years now, DJ's and critics, who write for our magazines, have been saying that we should write and perform our own songs, and to my mind, this has been the only time I can recall, when a chance like this has come our way. So may I thank you, once again, for that chance.

I should like to add, I was not at the Festival to perform at all, but seeing as I was carrying my guitar with me, I asked if it was possible for me to perform a couple of my songs, in between the bands setting up on the Sunday. I was granted a short solo spot, which was very much to my advantage, because I have been offered spots on two BBC Radio programmes, and one or possibly two of my songs are to be recorded on an album being put together, which will feature only British country songs.

Rusty Douch
c/o 50 Foxborough Gardens,
London SE4 1HX.

PS I have just been on Radio Thamesmead, who also heard the songs at the Festival. So once again, a big thank you to you and all your team, who took the time to set this idea up.



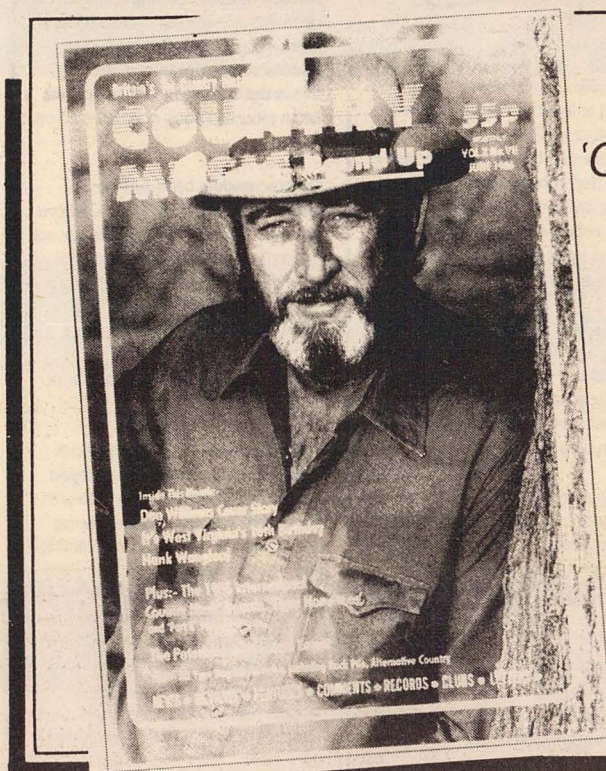
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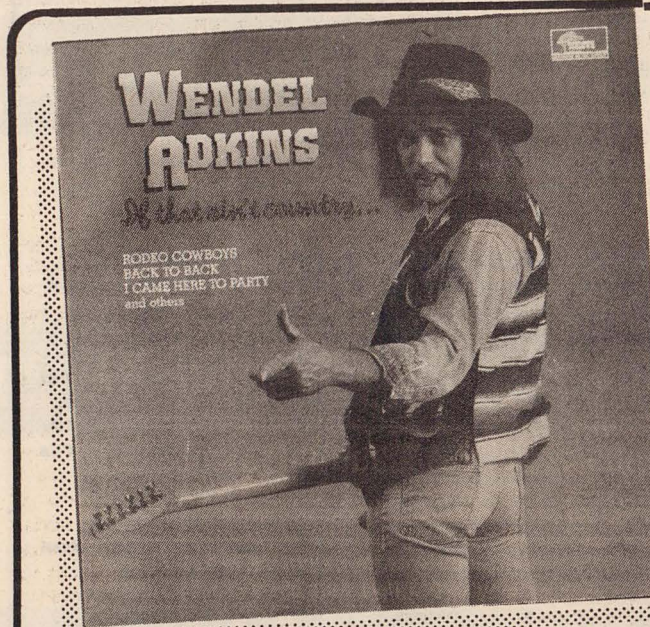


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CMRU

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Ulverston
Cumbria

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Publishers warning: 'Country Music Round Up' can seriously involve you with all that goes on in country music.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

YOUR LINE IN COUNTRY



It can be funny, sad, irate, complimentary, or anything else.

Dear Editors

Whilst travelling back from the south on Monday, we called in at the Peterborough Festival.

We thought that Spill the Beans did a superb spot. The trio brought some real country sunshine into a very wet and cold afternoon.

Well done to all the bands. They all gave their best, and if the weather had been kinder, we feel sure there would have been a much bigger audience. We also think it would have helped if the bands had been advertised; all we knew from Page 7 of the August issue of 'Round Up' was British Showcase, so it was a great bonus to find that the trio from our area, whose talent we do appreciate, were in the Showcase. So glad we didn't miss it.

Yours sincerely

Jean & Tommy Oliver
186 Wentworth Road, Wheatley
Doncaster, South Yorks.

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

I would be most grateful if you could allow a little space in your paper for this letter, as a reader somewhere, may have seen the following incident.

On Sunday, 24 August, my family and I attended the Country Music Festival at Peterborough. After the evening show, I returned to where my car was parked and found it stolen. The car is a metallic green Ford Sierra Estate 2.3 Ghia, registration number: A532 GLJ; the car has a black fitted roof rack.

The car was parked approximately three minutes' walk from the arena, on the Festival car park, which the Police informed me, is next to a swimming pool complex. The incident happened between 6.30 pm and 11.30 pm.

If a reader, somewhere, had parked in the same area, and thinks he saw someone drive off in it, and even may be able to give a description, please contact me or Thorpe Wood Police Station, Peterborough. Apart from the car, I had bought a number of irreplaceable records, articles of personal clothing, and souvenir programmes with the signed autographs of the stars.

A wonderful day ended with a heartbroken family.

I'm sure, whoever did this was not a country fan or anything to do with the Festival.

If you can find a little space to include this letter, I should be most appreciative.

Yours faithfully
Steve Taylor
24 College Road, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 8BG
Tel: 55698

Dear Editors

After reading Country Music Round Up for the last six months, I am now writing to let your readers know of my Voluntary Poetry Corner, which I have started. It is for anyone who is interested in reading or writing poetry, by post. Unfortunately, as I enjoy writing country and western poems, most of my correspondents do not, and I was wondering (hopefully) if any of your readers would either like to join my Poetry Corner, or whether any would like to correspond with me directly, so that I can keep country and western interest alive, not only in music, but also in verse.

As I say, anyone at all would be welcome and as this is a voluntary, not commercial endeavour, if they could enclose a SAE, I would answer any or all letters.

Thanking you for your time
Cordially yours
Paul Vaughan
7 Seiont Apartment, Rhosifaf
Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

First a big thank you for the reinstatement of 'CMRU' to the studios of Auckland Radio.

I really enjoy the letters page, knowing how other people think of a subject, and why, can expand your own knowledge of a certain issue.

Now some thank you's, first to 'ALMA' for a super Weekend Festival at South Shields, but I don't think any Press were there when Froggie went out of his way to make a young crippled girl feel like a million.

While I was waiting for an interview with Ray, he emerged from the town bus to say, 'Do you mind waiting a while please?' He then sought out the young lady in a wheelchair, chatted for at least twenty minutes, gave her a big kiss, and to make her day gave her his stetson. The smile on that young lady's face said it all - 'Ray, you're the Greatest!'

Secondly, to the powers-that-be at BBC Newcastle, for giving the North East another country programme - one hour, 1.00 til 2.00 on Saturdays.

Third to Stan Launden of BBC Radio Cleveland, for a great show and all his help. Get well soon Stan. (He broke his Hand.)

And last, but not least, to you and all your feature writers for a really worthwhile paper. Long may you reign.

John Lamb, Producer/Presenter
Country Sunshine
The Genereral Hospital
32a Escombe Road
Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham

Dear Editors

I must apologise to any fellow Merle Haggard fans or cassette tape enthusiasts, that I may have unintentionally misled, due to my letter in the September '86 issue, page 9, of 'CMRU'.

This same apology applies to MCA, because I have just purchased 'Songs For The Mama That Tried', on pre-recorded cassette, MCAC 5250, which is a US import. I came across the tape by chance, when I was browsing through the HMV Shop in the St James Centre, Edinburgh. The tape cost me £6.99, which, I suspect, is 50p dearer than the RRP for the identical LP currently on 'special Import' release at 'normal' prices. However, that is still £3 cheaper than the previous occasion, when I saw it offered as a 'genuine import' in several specialist mail order lists. To date, this is the only one of these special MCA albums I have encountered on cassette.

Do any readers have further information on a new Hag UK album release, 'To All The Girls I've Loved Before', on PMP 1003. I have not come across the label before - don't even know its name - however, it does come from the CBS stable. I suspect it is previously-issued, recent material on a cheapie label.

I also hear that 'A Shotgun And A Pistol', on Epic, has been delayed since June. If anyone can help with the above enquiry, please 'phone me at Alloa 215442 or drop a line to the address below.

Thanks in anticipation
Yours sincerely
Michael Clark
Sayeda, 2 Dunmar Crescent,
Alloa FK10 2EJ

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

Just a few lines to say how much I look forward, each month, to the 'CMRU'. I've been taking it for a couple of years now, and have found it good reading, especially the LP reviews. Through these, I've enjoyed buying the records concerned. However, I have a problem, I am afraid I don't understand the Billboard Charts for LP's or the others! A while ago, I tried to get Willie Nelson's 'City of New Orleans', which was a single, I believe. At the shop in Lynn, where I get most of my records, they said they didn't get it, but I believe it may have been released over here. It's a record I'd like to get if possible.

I have also written to Bermuda Dunes Records, in California, about the Margo Smith, 'Best of Tennessee Yodeler', which has been reviewed in your paper, but this was a few weeks ago, and I haven't had a reply yet. Also, could you please let me know how I can find where Import Shops are. Is there a publication which supplies this information?

Once again, many thanks for the 'CMRU'. I hope it gains in circulation, and best of luck to yourselves.

Yours sincerely
Mr R Hole
Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Eds:
We have sent you specific details under separate cover re the Import Shops, which we hope will be able to help you. Meantime thanks for your kind words.

Dear Editors

Must write to say what a wonderful job local radio station, West Sound is doing for country music. It's the only radio station in the whole of Britain you can be guaranteed country air play, seven days a week.

Lou Grant, especially, (whose programme is not a country show) plays tracks by George Strait, Merle Haggard, Ricky Skaggs, and a host of others - and not records that are at least ten or twelve years old, but good recent releases, many local artistes, and there are no comments making fun of the singer or the song.

There's also Tommy Truesdale, who tends to get dragged into playing a lot of older recordings, because his show is a request show. He's on six days a week in the afternoons, and Sidney Devine (who hosts that dreadful show, Shindig) plays a good variety including Jon Anderson. I have even heard a track from George Jones, 'Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes', which I've not heard played anywhere else. The DJ told the listeners that it was an import, and I think, where to get it.

So I count myself lucky to have this radio station to listen to. If all other stations adopted this approach, including national ones, I'm sure country music would become far more popular than it is at present.

Fiona Tomany
3 Guildford Street, Millport
Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

Yes, I agree with Clive Wynes' letter (Sept 86). If more foreign companies sent over their records, DJ's would give them support. Remember though, this applies to mobile DJ's, like myself, as well. Just two companies in the whole of North America bother to send me records - none from other parts of the world. Most of the British artistes I work with give me copies of their recordings, either tape or record, because, as I move around, I play and promote them.

Just think, if National Radio won't play country music (on a recent drive from London - three hours - listening to Radio 2, they played only two country records, both American) how else can the public know what is available to buy?

You know, as I do, how records chart . . . promotion companies send night clubs and top mobile DJ's, as well as radio stations, free records. The kids hear them, and then go out and buy. Until record companies realize they are leaving out a vital part of the cog in the machinery, they won't sell in any volume. Give us the tools and we will get on with the job, promoting country music.

Have you tried buying 'Irish Country'? I even wrote to Homespun Records, but I didn't get a reply. All I asked for was a list of new releases, and if they could supply me direct, as my local record shops claim they have to place a £50 minimum order, and so might not be able to sell them. It is the same with a lot of record distributors. I'm told shops have to order too high an amount to get delivery, so that puts them off ordering country.

Long-suffering country DJ,

Ken Hawksley
26 High Street, Goldthorpe
Rotherham, Sth Yorks.

Dear Editors

I am very anxious to obtain a tape copy of the message which was broadcast at the Peterborough Festival on Sunday, August 24. It was of Tammy Wynette, explaining why she was not there, and apologising for not coming. She also mentioned my family, which is why I am so anxious to hear the message.

We did intend to go to the Sunday performance, but instead, went to the Saturday show, and thus missed hearing the message.

Tammy did make a wrong decision, but at the time it was made, she believed it to be the right one. However, she is fully determined to make up for it during her tour next year. She is such a superb artiste, and super person, that it is always a pleasure to welcome her over here. Besides, can any one of us honestly state we have never made a wrong decision?

Yours faithfully
Carolyn Neal
35 South Road, West Bridgford
Nottingham

□□□□□□

Dear Editors

I'm dropping you a few lines to thank you for the prize of a Pontin's Country Music Holiday, which I won in the CMRU Christmas Quiz.

My wife, friends and I attended the Prestatyn Festival, and had a fantastic time.

Much of the music was excellent, whilst the Shiloh Civil War Society, and the Cowboys and Indians helped create a carnival atmosphere, which contributed greatly to the success of the week.

As a country music record collector, who'd never previously seen UK acts, or visited a country music club, I was pleasantly surprised with the generally high standard of performances, throughout the week. The highlights for me were the resident bands, West Virginia, excellent all-round entertainers; Campbell's Country, with Slim Pickens doing a fantastic job on fiddle; Stone Creek; Key West; and Pontin's favourite, Johnny Marks.

All in all, we had a great time as evidenced by the fact that we've booked a return visit for the Pontin's New Year Festival.

Thanks again to 'CMRU' for a first-rate prize. Apologies for the delay in sending this letter, and best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely
Ted Pinch
84 Wyndham Drive, Cefn-Y-Bedd,
Wrexham, Clwyd.

Eds:
Glad you finally got to enjoy some of Britain's country entertainers Ted, and that you are returning to support our 'Competition Sponsor' again by rebooking. Sounds like a perfect conclusion for everyone.

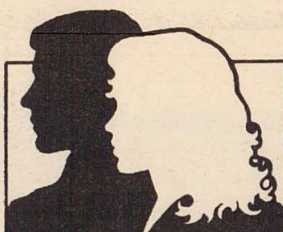
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Dear Editors

I would like to thank 'CMRU' for the Rose Marie album you sent to me as winner of June's Wordsearch Competition.

I am enjoying listening to the album as I have a go at the answers to this month's competition. Thanks once again

Michael B Skouse
Donelen, Tytler Street
Forres, Morayshire



Please

KEEP letters short. Write on one side of the paper only. Letters written on both sides will not be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing and submission will be taken to imply acceptance of that condition.

The Editors

If you need a reply send a SAE to the Editors,

□□□□□□

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An Open Letter To Jeffery & Howard Kruger



from
Mick Green

Dear Jeffery & Howard

Although the recent Country Music Festival at Peterborough was not the first held in that city, it was the first one organised by you, and with a new Captain and Crew at the helm, obviously, the course of things would be different. You will recall that during one of our conversations over the Bank Holiday weekend, you asked me to collect my thoughts, and let you know my views. So, I thought an open letter, in this manner, might be the best way.

OBSERVATIONS/CONGRATULATIONS

In the first place, I thought, musically, this was the best Peterborough Country Music Festival ever, not only for the quality, but also the variety of the acts, and sound and lighting. The names you have disclosed to me for next year, look like raising that standard yet again... but what the financial cost of that technical success has been in 1986, is anyone's guess. A count of heads shows losses, totally undeservedly. So I am writing the following to you in an open-minded hope, that it will help you formulate your ideas to improve the attendances next year, and thereby help to attract the sort of heavyweight sponsor which, I am sure, any major event like this, has to have in order to succeed.

My big worry was always that, by moving the Festival 'up-market' (something I totally support), there was a danger you would be 'throwing the baby out with the bath water'. By this, I mean, traditionally the fans who have descended upon Peterborough each year, have considered it the 'People's Festival', unlike Wembley - the media festival, with huge indoor shows. Peterborough was the extrovert carnival, based upon country music, where if fans did not like the line-up of one particular show, they could skip it, knowing that plenty of other things were going on. It was just a relaxing and pleasant place to be among friends.

Only a fool would claim they can speak for all the fans, but I, and other 'CMRU' writers, do have a lot of contact with, not only those who attended this year's Festival, but, perhaps more importantly, those who told us they were not going to the Peterborough event, for a variety of reasons. The biggest single reason I heard was the uncertainty - new promoter, and a question mark over what site; headliners dropping out; and other ridiculous situations created by other rival festivals. Also, one can't discount the 'political campaign' involvement of the fans, by certain parties, no longer involved with this event. Each took its toll, and of course, you were not, as in previous years, blessed by the weather.

During the course of the weekend, I have heard you talk of your plans for next year, and know there is a chance you will move to another, possibly more suitable, site in Peterborough. If this is so, please make that decision early, being sure once it is announced, it stays there. Also, I think it's generally understood, a good camping facility is vital, as Peterborough is simply not a big enough catchment area to attract enough country fans to support the concerts provided by such a festival. Therefore, outside visitors have to be attracted, but even if they could afford it, there is just not enough suitable hotel accommodation in Peterborough to cater for the numbers you need to attract.

Generally speaking, many people who need to camp are also put off by high ticket prices, and many felt that £50, for what they thought was just four shows, was on the expensive side. Very few seemed aware that you could get £5 (restricted view) tickets. I made a point of checking those seats, and although the view was, indeed, restricted, as the ticket clearly stated, the sound was excellent, and, in my opinion, represented some of the best value for £5, I have found in country music, anywhere. I know you need to sell the better seats, and most people, who can

afford them, will want those seats, but next year, let the fans, who can't afford them, know there are cheaper alternatives! Another reason many people I spoke to gave for not going was that it was a long way to go for just two days. I know there were two really excellent shows on the Monday, and they were FREE, but this simply was not conveyed to the fans in ADVANCE.

Another complaint I overheard was that the afternoon shows started too late. It left less than an hour between the shows. This meant that when they over-ran, fans did not have time to get a meal, or a change of clothes, before they had to be back for the next show. It was virtually like one long show with an interval. Therefore, some left before the first show finished, and others arrived late for the second. So I think you should assume most people will be there with you all weekend, and start the shows earlier to allow a reasonable time in between!

Also, because of time restrictions this year, there were problems over encores. I know it really annoys many fans when an act earns a genuine encore and is not allowed it. The prime example this year was Raymond Froggatt. Quite clearly a large proportion of the crowd were quite angry he did not get one. They genuinely felt he had been badly treated and some even felt cheated!!

AWARD WINNERS' CONCERT

At this point I should like to suggest that you expand the Festival to seven shows, and if you are to carry on with the CMRU Awards, at your Festival, automatically book all the British acts who won acclaim this year. A Friday night British Award Winners' line-up should appeal strongly to the thousands of British fans who voted for them.

SECURITY

Always hard to balance at this sort of event, is security. A festival like Peterborough's is supposed to be a free and easy, happy affair, but we all know one of the major problems in 1985 was security, and the fights. You promised to put that right this year, and you undoubtedly did - but possibly with overkill. There is now a risk of too many restrictions putting people off. Even as a working journalist, I found several barriers (no, I'm not talking about the one I tried to limbo dance my sports car under!), made it difficult to do the job properly. Then again, to be fair, I saw how you were aware of the circumstances and were fine-tuning all the time. The problem is, the public, and the artistes, want to feel secure, without feeling unnecessarily restricted. A difficult balance to achieve, and not, I suspect, readily understood by many.

ALCOHOL

We all know the problems this can cause at major events, where large numbers of people gather. However, I'm sure the ban on alcohol in the 'Big Top' was met with mixed reactions.

None of us wanted to see a repetition of some of the scenes from 1985; most of those scenes were not at the shows anyway, but outside. It makes the position of an interval even more important, so that people can get refreshments.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

This year did not involve quite as many, and as far as most people attending were concerned, it was all over by Sunday night. Again, this was simply because they believed there were no major shows on Monday and some stall-holders started to pack up early, because security wanted to take away protective barriers etc, in the morning, giving everyone the impression it was all over. As I've stated earlier, much of the attraction and success of Peterborough, with the public, has always been

the busy atmosphere, and I hope something can be done to make sure it's revived then retained.

Other details I am sure the fans would love to know are the times and places where the stars would be available to sign autographs and pose for pictures. You only had to watch the reaction Lore and the Legends created, walking around the outside arena, to appreciate what this meant to the fans... I believe you can and hope you will take this letter as constructive, not destructive criticism, because the British country music scene and its fans, need alternative professional promoters, like yourselves, to get involved with such major events. Equally, I am sure you are now very much aware, promoters, like yourselves, need fans to give them the fullest possible support.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY FINAL POINT.

I also feel that since Peterborough city stands to gain much in world-wide media coverage, and benefit greatly from the additional spending from the people coming into the city, then the City Council should stand up and be counted, and give you maximum support by being prepared to underwrite more than they have done thus far.

Yours sincerely



NO ENCORE FOR FROGGIE?

LEST WE FORGET MONDAY'S PERFORMERS



Top: Red Moon Joe.
Centre: Spill The Beans.
Bottom: Louisiana Hellraisers

MORECAMBE THE EMPIRE ARENA

Jimmy Taylor Ken Birtinshaw

LANCASTER and Morecambe City Council worked a minor miracle to produce and put together their first International Festival of Country Music, in under three months.

On site were the usual array of western wear, record stalls and various eating and drinking facilities. Much use was made of the bars situated in tents alongside the main marquee, but it was also possible to purchase a drink inside and sit and watch the show, consuming your beverage. But, as a good prelude, the main beer tent was packed, when Morecambe trio, Buffalo and Beads, consisting of Tony Ross, wife Glenda, and bass guitarist, Jimmy Ward, gave a lively start to the weekend, with a wide and varied selection of songs - old and new. They kept their audience happy, and it was nice to see America's legendary star, Hank Thomson, taking a keen interest in them. Then, the Mick Conlin Band and Wally Whyton kept up a very high standard, which was maintained throughout the weekend.

SATURDAY

Opening the first main concert, were two of my own personal idols, Pete Stanley and Brian Golbey, illustrating the musical wizards that they are... then, with little time to spare before catching their train, they gave the press and bar staff an impromptu version of 'Duellin' Banjos'.

The Bluberry Hillbillies bounced on stage with their own brand of alternative country, and the shocked look on the faces of the purists was something else! They were more rock than country, but I loved them... Then a combination of Zydeco and Cajun, from London's Balham Alligators, who worked tirelessly, pleased the fans, but after a while, this type of music becomes meaningless to me. I much preferred it when I closed my eyes and was dreamily transported to a South Sea island by the crystal-clear sounds of legendary 'steelie', Herb Remington, who replaced the Free Mexican Airforce. Some lovely backing by Gerry Hogan, also, Mick Conlin Band.

The evening show opened with West Coast (Preston) augmented on steel guitar by former member Dermot Gethins, and were enthusiastically received by the crowd.

A resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jana Jae, who's previously toured Britain with the Buck Owens show, appeared resplendent in a white, shimmering dress to please, not only the eye, but also the ear, with a selection of fiddle favourites and well-sung songs. The Mick Conlin Band gave a rousing version of 'Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town', then accompanied the fiddle virtuoso for a selection of Bob Wills favourites. Jana then duetted with Mick Conlin on, 'When You Were Sweet Sixteen', and a rip-roaring version of 'Wild Colonial Boy', before calling upon compere, Wally Whyton, to take the stage with her for, 'Rollin' In My Sweet Baby's Arms', and getting him to hold her bow vertically in front of him, while she ran the fiddle up and down, to render 'Boil Them Cabbage Down'.

Pinkerton's Colours then produced their highly-professional performance, including British chart-topper of 20 years ago, 'Mirror, Mirror'. There's no doubting that they've developed into a very fine country band, not visually exciting perhaps, but extremely entertaining.

The evening closed with Vernon Oxford, who started his set with 'Watermelon Time In Georgia'. He then treated the audience to his own favourites, and a selection of Hank Williams' songs, before laying down his borrowed guitar (his own got lost in transit), and picking up the fiddle, to the great delight of the crowd. He rounded off his set with a selection of

his religious numbers (at one point he stopped singing, when he felt that someone was showing irreverence) to complete a generally, crowd-pleasing performance.

SUNDAY

Due to transport problems, I missed the opening act, Vegas, but was told they gave a really good performance, and gained a lot of new fans. Due to the inclusion of Rose Marie on the afternoon bill (and much to the disappointment of the people who travelled to see her at night), timings were slashed, which was such a pity, as the jovial, Memphis Short and his Grand Canyon Band, were only just beginning to enjoy themselves - a really entertaining lot - and they were kept very busy signing autographs later.

The Janie Fricke single, 'Pleasing You, Pleasing Me', was one of the songs of the first female artiste of the weekend and she certainly pleased the audience. The lady in question was Birmingham born - but residing in Vancouver, Canada - Anne Lord, who had everybody on her side, and I'm sure, we'll be hearing much more of her.

Rose Marie was in sparkling form, holding the crowd in the palm of her hand, with an act which makes it easy to see why she was voted, Most Popular British Female Act of the year. Well done me gal.

George Hamilton IV proved to be a worthy headliner, by sailing through a selection of his many hits, with a very capable backing group, which included his son, George V, singing one of his own compositions, letting us know he intends being around the country scene for some time to come. The fans went home happy.

The Sunday evening was the best supported show, as Cliff Ledger's Family Band started the proceedings. A well chosen set of standards from them, and the three daughters presented a pretty picture in their pink outfits, as they each showed off their musical talents... Then it was time for The Mick Conlin Band to appear in their own right. Having well backed various artistes, they proved themselves worthy of their own spot.

Poacher quickly endeared themselves to the audience, with their excellent harmonies, and material covering the complete spectrum of country music. As a four-piece band, they are sounding more country than they have for many years. The audience readily responded to their requests to sing and clap along with the song that nearly did big things for them, 'Darlin', then encoring after great demand with, 'You Are No Angel'.

The delightful Ann Lord, from Canada, making her first visit to Britain since she was four, opened with Lee Greenwood's 'Dusty Dixie Road'. She quickly had the audience on her side (as she appeared for the third time at the Festival).

When Slim Whitman appeared on stage, he displayed all that old magic, singing his former hits. However, he changed much of his programme, from that of his recent tour, and the lack of rehearsal on these songs with Poacher, showed, as they were obviously as strange to them as they were to this writer. It was not helped by Slim's non-use of a monitor on stage. When Byron Whitman came on for his spot, he showed just how much he had matured, since his first visits to this country with 'Daddy'. He tackled such numbers as 'Big Train From Memphis', and 'Solitaire', with ease, and should have a future in showbiz (albeit, perhaps not in country music). Slim's final spot had all the crowd-pleasers

MONDAY

The worsening weather conditions were soon forgotten, as the excellent band, West Virginia, dished up a very good selection of songs - Great stuff! Then, Randy Blue & Deep Water impressed me immensely. This Blackburn group is rapidly becoming the No. 1 choice of many people around the north-west regions. Their version of a song, which is rarely off my turntable, 'Going Where The Lonely Go', made my day.

For a long time, my favourite British group has been Kenny Johnson & Northwind, and after this performance, nothing's changed. Closing the afternoon sessions, it was nostalgia time, in the form of Singapore-based, million-selling hitmaker of the sixties, Leroy Van Dyke, looking fit and well, and sounding great. He treated a very receptive crowd to some of his favourites, such as, 'Big Man In A Big House', 'Walk On By', and, of course, 'The Auctioneer'. I feel that with the right management (as far as Britain is concerned), he could find a rejuvenated career.

Mick Conlin Band warmed the crowd on the final night; their rendition of Bob Dylan's 'Forever Young', bringing them well deserved applause before the showman - who sold the idea of the Festival to the Lancaster and Morecambe Council - Jed Ford, bounded on stage. Resplendent in white, frilly shirt, his brief spot kept the crowd clapping along, before giving way to Jean Shepard's band, the Second Fiddles. An extremely talented and tight group performed a variety of contemporary country songs, showing off the skills of steel player, Phil Cooter.

Second Fiddles remained on stage to back Rusty Adams' alter ego, as KoKo the Country Clown. Although only performing a cameo spot, he delighted the audience with his impressions of many country stars including, Hank Snow, Johnny Cash, Ernest Tubb, and Marty Robbins. He even managed to produce a duet of 'Don't Worry 'Bout Me', between Tubb and Robbins, before going off to a standing ovation.

Jean Shepard pleased the audience with a selection of her hits from yesteryear, all the time trying to dodge the rain, which was now pouring down from the roof of the tent. In her finale, she showed she can still yodel, as well as ever.

Randy Blue & Deepwater acted as a sort of 'Brazos Valley Boys', augmented by veteran ace 'steelie', Herb Remington, for the Top Of The Bill American, Hank Thompson. A little hesitant at first, Deepwater were obviously not used to playing in a western swing style, but picked up the beat as Hank Thompson went through his repertoire of well-known hits, such as 'Humpty Dumpty Heart', and 'Wild Side Of Life', before the show was brought to an abrupt end by compere, Wally Whyton, because the gale-force wind had increased to such a pitch, that the marquee was beginning to move around and was in danger of lifting off... as it did the following day.

To set out with an idea and a recipe for making a Country Music Festival, given that almost all that the ingredients consisted of, were a piece of waste land, a helping of ratepayer's cash, stirred with endless hours of worry and hard work, within a time scale of just thirteen weeks, seemed like sheer lunacy. Yet, incredibly, Morecambe's Director of Tourism and Entertainment, Tom Flanagan, and his team, achieved some really impressive results. Their effort and enthusiasm meant this brave venture has left them with a potentially first-class site, and event. Given time, it could develop and compare with any other major Country Festival.

Finally, many thanks to all involved with the Festival, and special thanks to the on-site Press Officer, John Freeman, for his invaluable help. If we do have another next year (June?) let's change Morecambe's motto from 'Beauty Surrounds, Health Abounds', to 'Music Surrounds, Country Abounds'.



MORECAMBE MARQUEE WRECKED FOUR ESCAPE

Four men had to run for their lives when gales wrecked the main marquee at the Country Music Festival sited at the back of the Empire Buildings, Morecambe, where only hours earlier hundreds of people had been inside for the final festival concert.

The four were working inside the huge tent, preparing to dismantle it, when a violent gust flipped it over. They managed to scramble clear only seconds before the 40-ton steel frame and six tons of canvas crashed spectacularly to the ground.

'Everything went in about five seconds. It was pretty frightening,' explained foreman, David Griggs. 'We were right in the middle of the marquee, at the time. We were very lucky. There is no warning when they go. We ran as fast as we could and just made it. The tent

followed us, turned on its side, folded in the air, and followed us out.'

Mr Colin Enos, spokesman for KBC Tent Hire, Rotherham, from whom the marquee was hired, was at the scene when the disaster struck. 'It's beyond repair,' he said. Many sections were so badly shredded, they were irreparable.

Workers were able to successfully dismantle the beer tent, however, which helped to minimise the cost of the damage.



Marquee owner

Colin Enos...

"It's a write off,"

FESTIVAL WORTH DOING

Morecambe's first International Country Music Festival lost a considerable amount of money, but, although audience figures were nowhere near those expected, organisers reckoned it had been worth doing.

Chairman of the City Tourism Committee, Councillor Tom Shingler, said the festival had been worth the money put into it.

'We have to try these things. We are always getting criticism for not doing anything, and I was fully behind having a go. The results were, perhaps, a little disappointing, but in view of the shortage of time we had to get everything done, the general reaction is that we did a marvellous job,' he said.

The original cost of the festival, was £147,000, and despite having

to pay an extra £12,000 for 13 airline tickets to get the American stars to Britain. Tourism Chief, Mr Tom Flanagan, said the budget had not gone much over this.

However, money was lost on the income side. Audience figures were under half those anticipated Mr Flanagan said. Around 3,500 people attended over the whole weekend, and organisers had hoped for twice the figure.

The best concert was on Sunday evening, with Slim Whitman heading the bill. It was watched by and estimated 2,000 strong

audience. Saturday's expected high attendance figures, however, were not reached, with only a meagre 500 on-lookers. The grand finale, planned for Monday evening, was a washout, because of the weather and Mr Flanagan said it had been touch and go whether to stage it at all.

'The loss will be considerable, and I am disappointed about that, but we went into it in the knowledge that something like this might happen. It was a big investment to make, and we made it for the benefit of Morecambe,' concluded Mr Flanagan.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Fun family gathering with Slim Whitman and son Byron, George Hamilton IV with George V, centred by Wally Whyton

● THOSE of you that have read my reviews regularly, know that I have a great deal of admiration for the Warrington-based group, Poacher, and recently my attention was again directed their way, when I heard that ITV was to revive the talent show, *New Faces*, this September. I remember, the first time I ever saw them was when they won the show, almost ten years ago.

● I could not remember exactly how many there were in the group - were there originally five or six? And am I right in thinking, that in at least one of the programmes, they were dressed in something which resembled Confederate gear? It was all a long time ago, and when I caught up with the group at Peterborough, recently, they naturally enough, were more interested in talking about the future, rather than those heady days from nearly a decade ago.

● Upon checking the dates, I discovered they actually shot to recognition in 1977, and even though all those years have gone by, there are still many of the places they play, who quote, 'Winners of *New Faces*', in their advertising. For a long while, Poacher stood alone and reigned supreme on the British country music scene. 1978, when they had US Cash Box singles chart success with 'Darling' on Republic Records, they would undoubtedly have had similar British chart success, but for the unfortunate circumstances of their British record company, (at that time) RK Records, being taboo with the radio DJ's, following allegations of chart 'hyping' for one of their other bands.

● In fact, the years have not always been kind, and changes have taken place in the group, as they have adjusted to the ups and downs of show business. Of the original line-up, only two remain, Tim and Alan, but Peter Frampton on lead guitar has been there almost as long and Martin Duffy, on drums, has been constant for several years now.

Over the years, they have appeared at all the major festivals, on numerous TV shows, like the 'Video Entertainers', enjoyed popular presence on the cabaret scene, and are regularly involved with trade promotions in the way that American country stars are. For a long time now, they have been sponsored and involved with Vladivar Vodka, and the group are always quick to say how grateful they are for that support. So many of our groups are being forced off the road, because of financial pressures, this sponsorship is one of the things which has allowed them to carry on with their plans, to chase those elusive dreams and ambitions, and to be able to convince themselves that they need never say die.

● Like other groups in Britain, I am sure they still have the ability to grace stages, along with the best the world has to offer. For years, manager, Dave Warwick, has made no secret of the fact that he has been looking for someone who he feels could record them and help promote them, not only here, but in the States as well. Now some nine years after their initial success via TV, he feels the search is over. That man's name? Dan Mitchell.

● Dan Mitchell may mean little to fans in this country, unless you read the songwriter and producer credits on your albums. Then you would know that his songs have been among the hits recorded by top US group, Alabama. The most famous of which, is probably 'Fiddle In The Band'. Mitchell has his offices in Nashville, USA, in the

CMRU EXCLUSIVE REPORT



POACHER AMERICAN DEAL

... Could give them a 'New Face' lift!

very same building as Alabama's management company, which is where Dave Warwick met this huge man.

He simply walked in, talked about Poacher, played him some demos. The man was impressed, then he listened some more, was more impressed, went away and thought about it, listened again, talked it over with Dave, and there and then agreed to get involved.

● The original plan was for Poacher to actually go to the States, but that has been altered, in that Dan

Mitchell is now coming here to meet the boys. Whether that actual recording will take place in Britain, has yet to be decided, but it will be Premier One Records, Nashville, who will handle the deal.

They plan to have a single released both sides of the Atlantic by late-October/mid-November, with an album to follow shortly afterwards... Good news for one of Britain's finest groups... But the good news does not stop there, because, manager, Dave Warwick, has also put together for them an American management deal with World Artists Entertainment Inc. (whose main offices are in

Florida). The band will be handled through their Nashville branch, by Larry Broderick, and currently, there is some strong talk of Poacher as support act on an Alabama tour, but Tim says they hardly even mention it, in case they are tempting fate.

● New Faces lifted this group from obscurity to being a household name with British country music fans. Who knows, maybe the return of the programme will be a good omen, and that the new 'American Connection' will give them a 'New Face' lift and big success the other side of the Atlantic. They certainly deserve it.

Mick Green

RADIO CITY'S SIXTH, ANNUAL, JAMBOREE

By Brian Ahern

● LIVERPOOL'S Radio City, had already established their self-financed, annual country jamboree as one of the most popular country music events on the north-west country music calendar. Their chosen venue at Aughton Chase, near Ormskirk in Lancashire, a huge, indoor riding school, with double staging, mounted on articulated trailers. The multi-purpose, design-built venue with built-in bar and food snack bar, evoking thoughts of a Texas Honky Tonk environment, for a show hosted by Radio City's regular presenters, Joe Butler and Mark Jones.

● Friday evening opened with Liverpool's Harvey. This seasoned, four-piece unit brought the stage

alive, with their close-knit harmony work, and the slow-to-gather audience loved them. They set a high standard for the rest to follow. The next act on, Hickory Lake, were still on an all-time high, following their success in the 'CMRU' International awards. The band, voted by this paper's readers as the Most Popular British Country Music Group, as a gesture to their fans from the region, were re-presented with their award, before they showed why they are held in such high esteem. Their show was a delight, yet again and a fair sized gathering of Liverpool country entertainers had mustered to congratulate the group on their success.

● Local band, Stroller, then did a set which was a gem of control and style,

which gave proof of the quality expected within our country music clubs. The Hillsiders took the stage, among friendly jibes from the link compere, Mark Jones, whose tongue-in-cheek banter would have put off most bands. But the Hillsiders hallmark is top quality, and that's exactly what they gave throughout their set, before Ken Harris, together with Stationbreak brought the Friday evening (the small hours) to a close, in fine style.

● Saturday evening; rested, refreshed, and eager, Liverpool turned out in full country music force. The mood of good time partying to their favourite music, was heavily in the air. When 'Scouseland' is in this frame of mind, the atmosphere is superb. First to the stage were Randy Blue & Deepwater with Bobbi Whyatt, flushed with success of backing Hank Thompson at the Morecambe Festival

of Country Music. Their show featured many of singer/songwriter Randy Blue and his band's self-composed material, which highlights the upsurge of confidence, which is running through the British country music scene. Another great start to a show.

● Yet another award-winning singer/songwriter followed, having gained this year's 'CMRU' readers' award for the Most Promising British Act (RMC know how to book them), Stu Page & Remuda, gave a blistering display of their award-winning talents to the fair city, and stayed on stage for yet another re-presentation of their treasured award, which again delighted this packed, North-West region audience.

● Liverpool thrush, Jody Stevens & Westwood kept the party spirit flowing in true Liverpool style, with a nice set, taken from their club show. The

Hillsiders kept the atmosphere on the goodtime boil, and the dance floor space to overflowing, with a cracking set, tailored to suit the occasion. This year's Jamboree's final spot went to the '86 Awards nominee group, Campbell's Country. This Corby-based country music band are past masters at reading the wants of their audiences. Their response was ideal, catering for both listeners and the dancers. The inclusion of their new 'American Exile' fiddle player, is a revelation to this, already very popular, band, as they closed the event on the same high note which had been maintained throughout the whole of this ten-hour, (two evening) non-stop, 'Country Jamboree of Scouseland'.

CMRU's Editors would like to thank Radio City for allowing Stu Page & Remuda, and Hickory Lake to share their moments of triumph with their fans in the North-West.



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THE PETERBOROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

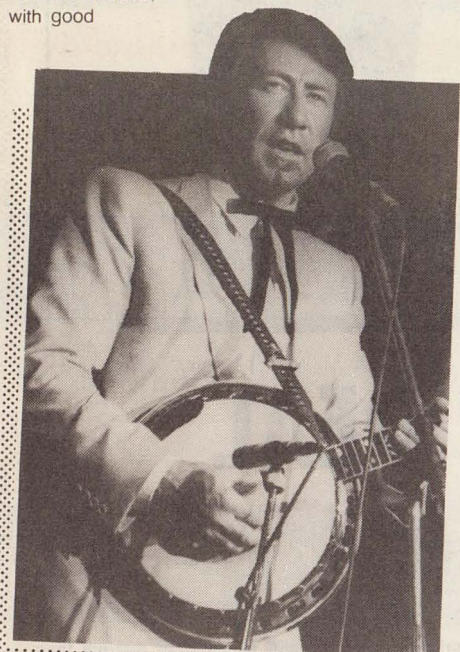
EMBANKMENT:

SATURDAY 3pm

Clive Wynes

● THE opening show of the revamped Peterborough Festival, provided a varied menu of musical styles, ranging from fifties-style rock and roll, to cockney-pop, then finally, country music. Master of ceremonies, for the afternoon, was that grand ol' man of skiffle, the irrepressible, Lonnie Donegan, who wisely used a string of his old skiffle hits, to hold things together, as his music was right at home among those other musical memories from earlier days, provided by the Crickets and Ricky Valance, who was the opening act. One-time pop star, turned country singer, Ricky's bright and breezy set proved extremely slick and enjoyable, with a mixture of country songs including, 'Truck Driving Man', and 'Mama Tried', plus a countrified version of 'Legend In My Time', the high spot of his set.

● Pete Sayers & The Dixie Bluebirds demonstrated the high quality, British music ~ has now attained, with good



musicianship and tight harmonies which deserved longer on stage, in their own right. The return to Peterborough, by popular consent, was the appearance of ex Paul Revere & The Raiders' guitarist, Freddy Weller. The combination of his stone, country voice and punchy, aggressive set should ensure a quick and welcome return to these shores.

● Next came musical nostalgia in the shape of Buddy Holly's original, The Crickets, with Jerry Allison on drums, Joe B Maudlin on upright bass, and Fred Payne on lead guitar. This was the music I grew up on, but I must admit, it did now sound a little dated, and I found the trip down memory lane with 'Oh Boy', 'Maybe Baby', 'Rave On', and 'Peggy Sue', just a bit over-long. The memories were there, but some of the magic seemed to have disappeared over the years.

● Following the interval, came the man I was waiting to see. The man tipped to make a really big breakthrough, Dwight Yoakham. Despite a couple of minor sound problems, he definitely won the hearts and minds of this Peterborough audience. All the promise inherent in his album, 'Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc', was realised with a driving performance of 'Honky Tonk Man', 'Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc', as well as classic interpretations of the 'Grand Tour', and 'Walking After Midnight'. It was really great to hear some ol' style country music given an invigorating new lease of life.

● This is the stage in my review where I should say something like 'Headlining the afternoon bill were...', but alas, I can't, for as far as I'm concerned, Chas & Dave at a Country Festival were complete non-starters. OK, so their roots, way back, lie in country music, but their, often crude, raucous style of music was totally out of place on this stage at Peterborough, and as an exercise in getting burns on seats, it was quite the reverse, they failed, dismally. Definitely a low note to finish a good afternoon show on.

SATURDAY 7.30pm

Mick Green

● ONLY a couple of years ago, we used to comment if a British country music audience accepted any original, or less than familiar material, so it shows the amount of improvement made, when this, generally, is no longer the case. In fact, for me, the two most successful acts of the evening, sang nothing but their own, original songs.

● The evening opened solidly enough, with competent sets from Frank Jennings Syndicate, and the Kevin Duffy Band, but I felt the latter needed a front man. Perhaps this was because their set was so short, and they stayed on to back Jo-Ann Steele, who appeared on stage in an Indian head-dress, singing 'Kawliga'. Even though, her set was safely pitched at the country music standards side - she did not include, 'Wind Me Up', which was an American hit she wrote, and sold for only a few dollars.

● I genuinely believe, there is only one thing to stop Raymond Froggatt being an international superstar, and that is Froggie, himself. Almost as soon as he comes on stage, the crowd are cheering, and as he moves around, it is almost as if he is defying you to take your eyes off him. It seems he is one of those rare characters, whom all the ladies love, and yet, strangely enough, none of the men resent. (Dolly Parton has it in reverse.) Froggatt only sang five songs, all self-penned, so he, naturally enough, had to leave dozens

The Frog shows there ain't no Lore against being original

of the fans' favourites out, as he concentrated on his newer songs. So was this 'Just Another Night'? You've got to be joking! The audience were on their feet, screaming for more, and I thought it might have become quite nasty at one stage, when no encore was allowed. Yes, this was a major Country Music Festival, and I know he is British. I'll argue with anyone who says Raymond Froggatt can't stand on any stage in the world and compete with ANYONE when he's in this mood. Great!

● Long time a favourite of mine, and another truly great songwriter, but perhaps because of what had just gone before, I did not find Tom T Hall & The Storytellers as entertaining as in the past. His eight-song set included a lot of favourites like, 'Ballad Of 40 Dollars', 'Clayton Delaney', 'Pamela Brown', and 'Old Dogs And Children And Watermelon Wine', and although I enjoyed them, I did not get the lift I got from the previous act - despite the fact it was a quality performance, throughout.

● No intermission (they were running late) meant that Lore & The Legends, who were one of the successes of last year, followed straight on. It was difficult to hear the lead guitar on the first couple of numbers (perhaps there is something in their song 'Sometimes It's Hard To Be A Cowboy'), and they were not having the impact of 1985, until suddenly, the lead instruments shone through, and

with it the whole act. Lore and the band are big men, who wear long, silky dust coats, and they really 'looked the business' as they strolled around the site, or promoted themselves on stage; and they really did 'do the business' when they presented their own songs. Lore has a distinctive voice, rather than a great one, but the feel he has for the songs he writes, and the way he puts them over, gives him a unique sound. Again, I felt as if he was a 1986 version of Marty Robbins as far as the songs were concerned. After 'Silver Spurs', the programme lifted all the way. 'Long Train' was raunchy, 'Saying Goodbye To The West' was poignant 'One Step Ahead Of The Law' (which is the title track from the current album), is back to the Marty feel again, but very eighties-ish, and 'I Miss You', which he dedicated to his friend - a member of the band which toured last year, but who, so tragically, died - was touching, without becoming maudlin. An excellent presentation of original material.

● The night's headliner, Billie Jo Spears, has toured here many times, and remains a favourite with British audiences. She gave her fans exactly what they wanted, those hits and favourites she has been associated with, over many years. She encoored with 'Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad', which obviously she hadn't, as far as the audience was concerned. A typical Billie Jo show... and there ain't nothing wrong with that!

SUNDAY 3pm

Pete Smith

● MICK Green, even with his up-market image, hates me for each time he, I'm sorry, we decide who's covering what, I seem to finish up with the show I'm least comfortable with... For instance, Dwight Yoakham and Ed Bruce are more my scene, but Greeny - sorry - we decided I should have the Sunday afternoon, and you know what, I probably got the best show...

● The Yellowstone Picnic Band opened up with probably the best set I've witnessed from a British band at a festival. Four voices, led by Nick Carter, and twin lead guitars; the group presented a very varied act, highlighted by 'Four Strong Winds' (a real production number), an acapella version of 'Tumbling Tumbleweeds', and 'You're The One', complete with theatrical gestures. The 'Bears' then stayed on stage, to accompany Grand Ole Opry veteran, Dave Dudley, who proved that the years hadn't weakened his voice any. Dave delighted the audience with his warm personality and his all-too-short set of songs, which naturally included 'Six Days On The Road', and 'Truck Drivin' Son Of A Gun'.

● Rattlesnake Annie gained a warm reception for her ten-song set, although largely familiar, she included a couple of newer numbers, 'Texas & Oklahoma', and 'The Country Music Hall Of Pain'.

● Festival favourites, those 'British' from Louisiana bunch, Jimmy C Newman & Cajun Country were next. To be really truthful, I reckon Newman has only an average voice, and a weak stage personality, but he does have an uncanny knack of attracting and surrounding himself with top class musicians. The current Cajun Country is, in my opinion, the finest aggregation of its kind in the world, with Wade Landry (fiddle), Bessyl Duhon (accordion), Johnny Carter (steel), Randy Mason (drums), Eddie Curtis (bass), and his wife Bobbie Curtis (keyboards and vocal). Newman's thirteen-song set featured numbers, now familiar to Country Music Festival followers, plus a cracking version of 'In The Mood', Cajun style, with Bobbie Curtis singing lead, and 'Cajun Blossom Special', with Wade Landry performing miracles with his fiddle.

● Jean Shepard might be showing her age, physically, but not vocally. Jean opened with 'Slippin' Away', then surprisingly, kept away from her hits until the final song, 'Second Fiddle To An Old Guitar'. Rick Langston, Jean's bass player took the lead on 'Haven't You Heard', to provide a little variation. Jean's band, the Second Fiddles, remained on stage to back Rusty Adams, in his very good, alter-ego set, KoKo the Country Clown, offering competent impersonations of Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb, and Marty Robbins, before finishing with a moving rendition of 'Beyond The Sunset'.

● Tom T Hall closed the Sunday afternoon show with an extended version of his previous day's performance, adding 'I Like Beer', 'I'm Not Ready Yet', 'PS I Love You', and 'Love Letters In The Sand'. There's no doubt about it, Tom T with his Storytellers band were the standout stars of this particular show, but really, I've got no criticism to make at all... In fact, the Promoters should be well satisfied with this one, and, indeed, the other shows, on this Bank Holiday weekend.

SUNDAY 7.00pm

Mick Green

● THE Sunday night show was opened by Diane Solomon, backed by her group, American Express. I would have been highly surprised if this lady had turned in anything but a professional set, but I was surprised to see so short a spot including such country 'classics' (?) as 'Boy Can't Help It', and 'Stuck In The Middle', but I did like 'Wild Turkey'.

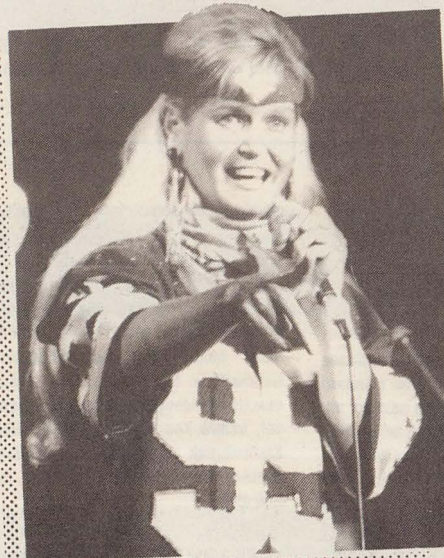
● My biggest disappointment of the weekend came next, backed by Scotland's Duke Boys. I had been looking forward to seeing Del Reeves, but frankly, his set left me cold. Even when he brought his daughter on stage and went into his impressions - well, he didn't impress me - I had already made that note when 'He'll Have To Go', just about summed it up for me.

● During the next changeover, a recorded message from Tammy Wynette was played over the sound system. But it went down like a lead balloon! I guess those who were interested (?) wanted Tammy, not excuses. There's no doubting the recording was overlength and, I thought, unnecessary, but so too was the slow-handclap which greeted it, not only from the unforgiving public, but also from sections of the media too.

● By this time, I was feeling a bit let down, but fortunately, Jim Glaser lifted me, and the whole Festival again, with a lovely balanced set. As he and his brothers originally started with Marty Robbins, he pitched in a couple of songs from that era, then he included a couple of the Glaser Brothers hits. The current stage line up sounded so good, I made the note that if they could get the two acts together, they could make a fortune as 'Double Glasers'... and I loved Jim's dress sense: dinner jacket, frilly shirt, dickie bow, and Jeans! Great. He also included a brilliant acapella version of the Stephen Foster hit song, which was written more than a hundred years ago, 'Hard Times Come Again No More', and closed with 'You're Getting To Me Again', which had the crowd on their feet, screaming for more. It was less than a decade ago, when Jim first launched his solo career, playing the small British country music clubs. Since then, he has worked again with the re-formed brothers, then found more solo recording success. But here he underlined that his popularity with the British country music fan is as strong as ever.

● Left with a 'follow that' situation, singer/songwriter, Ed Bruce, did just that - and how. A success when he last appeared in Britain (Wembley), but this was a much more successful appearance. OK 'Everything's a Waltz' for this big man, who glided through his programme, very smoothly, always careful to give credit to the writers of the songs he was performing. Of course, many were songs he had written with his wife, Patsy. Those songs which have become classics like 'Mama Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys', 'Texas (When I Die)', and the song he closed with, as he walked off, waving a small Union Jack, 'This Is The Last Cowboy Song'.

● The crowd had obviously wanted more, but as Lynn Anderson, looking like a vivacious college school girl,



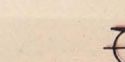
dressed in a huge baseball shirt, had crept on stage to sing harmonies on the 'Last Cowboy Song' (sitting beside the drummer), Ed introduced her, and she sang a three-song set: 'Rose Garden', 'Cry', and 'Rocky Top', before letting Ed back on stage for their two duets - from his new album, 'Night Things' - 'Fools For Each Other', and 'Down The Hall'. Again, much to the delight of the crowd. But even that wasn't the last we

were to see of this superb pairing, because they were invited to make a quick return on stage, to announce the winners of the 1986 Country Music Round Up International Popularity Awards, which was the centrepiece of the evening, and although, perhaps, this isn't the place to say it, the whole 25-minute presentation was very slick and extremely professionally presented. (See separate review)

● Needless to say, there was no interval, and as soon as the awards were completed, it was time for the legendary star of the Grand Ole Opry, Kitty Wells, to sing with her band, before introducing husband, Johnny Wright and son, Bobby Wright. Then even more family, when a couple of grandsons appeared on stage. Johnny and Jack songs like, 'Ashes Of Love', 'I Get So Lonely', and 'Oh Baby Mine', were featured, while those on stage represented over 50 years of country music enterprise, and produced a set which transcended time.

● To close the Sunday, came Bill Anderson & the Po' Folk Band, and here I must say, I am not a Bill Anderson music fan. I wouldn't go so far as to say I prefer CMRU's Tony Anderson, but I'm not a fanatic. However, I really must admit, he 'Still' seemed to be a big favourite with most of this audience. This was a tight, easy to listen to show, and I thought the 'Mountain Dew' medley was very effective, but personally again, songs like 'Golden Guitar' really turn me off. Setting that aside, I have to report despite that, the show went on until well past midnight. Hardly anyone left before the end, and Bill Anderson certainly got a lovely response from the audience. OK, it just ain't my type of country, and if I want to see the Dwrights and Lores, then other people are entitled to see and hear their favourites. That's really what festivals are all about - variety, and providing something for everyone... and to sum up the entire entertainment provided over the weekend, I can honestly say that I doubt if I was outside the marquee for more than half an hour, in total, during the whole time the shows were on. Why? Because there always seemed to be an act coming up, I wanted to see, and very few - if any - on the entire bill, were being used as fillers. That is also why I must say, it was musically, the best Peterborough Festival held so far. What a pity more of you weren't there to witness it! You missed some great entertainment.

THE PETERBOROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL





BRITISH STARS OF TOMORROW SHOWCASE

Presented by
Country Music Round Up
Sponsored by
Musicians' Union

By the Capped Crusaders

● The base camp was awash with as much water as anticipation, prior to the show starting. The National News media had warned that this 'Hurricane Charley', from North Carolina, was rolling in to take the country by storm, but the Crusaders had never heard of this so-called New American Force, and their very existence on site, was dependent upon exposing New Talent to its dear readers, no matter where they originated from.

They were about to set off on a reconnaissance trip before the more suave members of the 'Round Up team, who had set up camp in and around Cliff Stevens' RIP tour bus, informed them, that they had mistaken a weather report for a new act. Not to worry - no-one's perfect.

● With parched lips and aching limbs, the fab three took their press seats at the side of the stage. Nice one Jeff, smashing position for the press corps. From this position, one could see all of the stage activities, and also witness the audience reaction.

● The show opened, on time, with the compere, Keith Shepherd - who had done a first class job all weekend on the outside Free, Original British Country Music Stage - bringing the boss, Colin Kettle to the centre of the podium to make his speech.

● **Yorkshire's Spill the Beans**, soon had the audience in the mood, with a very good set of quality country entertainment. They went a long way to prove that there is no gap between the American product and our home grown talent. What a start to the all-British show.

● The stage change brought those fun-loving Scots, the Louisiana Hellraisers, to the fore. They might have come away from Europe bronzed, but at Peterborough, they were solid gold. The older, more portly Crusader had to scramble underneath the tiered seating to retrieve his Union Jack cap, which he had thrown into the air in excitement and sheer delight. This band is hot British property.

● Red Moon Joe started their set by informing the audience that they were here for a 21st party. It was their 21st gig since they formed, and that is New Talent. These youngsters from the North West played out of their skins with a sampler of what's to come in the future of home-grown country music. They had the press benches glowing in praise.

● The final spot went to Firewater, who brought to Peterborough their colourful and energetic club performance, in a fitting finale to a show which country music can be proud of. All of the Capped Crusaders agreed, that most of the legendary American superstar entertainers brought to this festival, the 'Oh so dear' memories of a golden past - for which we love them dearly - but the British contingency gave us all a glimpse of the future in their wonderful showcase of The British Stars of Tomorrow. Our caps come off in salute to the Musicians' Union, and Jeffery and Howard Kramer for their support in this worthwhile venture.



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September 2, 1986

JO WALKER-MEADOR

Mr. Jeffrey Kruger
Kruger Leisure Enterprises Ltd.
P.O. Box 130, Hove
East Sussex, ENGLAND BN3 6QU

Dear Jeffrey:

As I reflect upon the very recent Peterborough Festival, I don't believe I have ever witnessed a first time event which went so smoothly — indicating that much professional skill went into the planning and development of the 1986 Peterborough Festival. I said to the audience and everyone involved, I have not witnessed better shows — so professionally produced and presented. The staging, lighting, and sound were far above average. The talent was happy and pleased with all the arrangements. Evidently, the site of the Festival and at the Bull Hotel.

The Peterborough City Council, led by Mayor Joe Hall — supported by Charles Swif and the other members of the Council, et al — is simply marvelous. They are very futuristic and aggressive in their promotion of their city. Peterborough is such a lovely and historical city that I know that more and more people will want to visit it when they are traveling about England.

As Executive Director of the Country Music Association, I'd like to express our appreciation to the Peterborough City Council, as well as to you and your Organization, and extend our best wishes for many years of growth and affiliation.

Rob joins me in commending you, Rene, Howard, Trisha, Leslie and all of your staff and in extending our deep appreciation of the courtesies.

Sincerely,

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Mrs.) Jo Walker-Meador

July 1914

COUNTRY ROCK PILE



BY PETE SMITH

● IT is most confusing for fans, when two bands adopt the same name. This happened, last year, with British local act, Staline, a country outfit and a rock band, and with Borderline, a four piece and a bluegrass duo. Staline, the country group, have ceased to exist, and so have Borderline, the quartet, so things are a little clearer now. But recently another source of confusion has arisen with Chisholm, a North East-based group, and Chisum, a South Yorkshire band. Chisum finds it hard to gain work up north, because clubs think they have already used the band, and I assume Chisholm also experiences the same difficulties. So, can I suggest that all new groups do themselves a favour? Before choosing a name, check out CMRU or the BCMA handbook to see if anyone is already using a name you have in mind, and let's stop this confusion. It hurts the band, agents and can't help anyone.

● Remember that excellent musician, Ian Lawrence? I've not heard from him for a while, but have discovered he's now with a new band, Lincoln Continental. Apart from Ian, there's a lot of experienced talent in this country rock group. American Steve Powell handles lead vocals and harp, Graham Williams, lead guitar, and Dodo the drummer were both with Racing Cars, and bassist, Lincoln Carr, like Ian, was with the much acclaimed in the early eighties, Quarter Moon. I look forward to hearing them...

● Fans in Cardiff are in for a treat this month, when Rogues opens at the Canton Labour Club. Rogues will operate every Thursday and will feature what is described as 'roots music'. Opening star guests are Lerue, a Cajun outfit, led by Pierre Lerue, a fiddler, and featuring some of his colleagues formerly with Queen Ida's Bon Temps Zydeco Band. The club will not only feature country, but also folk and jazz, so check out your local press...

● I know some of you Rockpilers are also Guy Mitchell fans, so you will be interested to know that Guy is currently on tour. Venues for this month are: Gloucester Leisure Centre; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa; De La War Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea; Wimbledon Theatre; and Worthing Pavilion.

● Canadian James H Robinson, whose single, 'I Guess It's Only Natural', I reviewed a couple of months ago, seems to be attracting a lot of attention, not only in his native country, but in The States also. This doesn't surprise me one bit, for after listening, many times, to his singles, I'm convinced Jim could become a major star. The single is available on Skyhigh Records...

● Staying in Canada, winners of the 1986 Big Country Awards were: The Family Brown, Act of the Year; Anne Murray, Female Vocalist; Murray McLaughlin, Male Vocalist; Mercey Brothers, Group of the Year; Anne Murray and Dave Loggins gained Best Single of the year for 'Nobody Loves Me, Like You Do'; Family Brown claimed Top Album with 'Feel The Fire'; and Top Composers were Terry Carisse & Bruce Rawlins for, 'Counting The I Love You's'...

● Jason Hawkins, after a slight hiatus in his career, is back in the Nashville studios recording, among the songs on the agenda are a couple of oldies, 'Waltz Across Texas', and 'The Bottle Let Me Down'; an original composition, 'Will The Waltz Survive?'; and a Bobby Bare/Max D Barnes tune, 'True, True Love Never Dies', planned as a duet with a beautiful lady from Florida, called Carolton...

● Met up with the Leeds-based duo, Shotgun, and was very impressed. To date, they have released three cassettes, the latest being, 'The Real Thing', featuring fine versions of 'The Wind Beneath My Wings', 'Seven Spanish Angels', and ten others...

● I've received a letter from recent visitor to the UK, American act, Keith John, who's back home in Idaho. In it he tells me he's returning to Britain next April/May for a full tour. Keith says he was sorry to go home after five weeks of beautiful weather, beautiful people and beautiful memories.

● Ed Bruce was one of the real stars of the Peterborough Festival. His latest album is entitled, 'Night Things'. The record features, 'Fools For Each Other', and 'Down The Hall', both duets with the lovely, dare I say revitalised, Lynn Anderson. Lynn, recorder of so many hits during the seventies, after a period of relative obscurity, has now signed with Polygram Records, in Nashville, and is making guest appearances on Ed Bruce's tours...

● One of the top concert attractions in the world of country music is, without doubt, the Oak Ridge Boys. Their current 'Seasons' tour is smashing all kinds of box office records throughout The States. On the album front, there will be a new one out in The States during the autumn, whilst in Britain, MCA have just made available, three back catalogue titles, 'Greatest Hits', 'Greatest Hits, Vol II', and 'American Made'. Recently, the Oaks received strong UK support by their nomination for Most Popular International Group in the International Country Music Awards, determined by the readers of CMRU...

● Dwight Yoakham, a sensation on his recent British visit, has a radio play single on release, 'Honky Tonk Man'/'Miner's Prayer', (Reprise) is available in both 7-inch and 12-inch format, and is culled from the chart-topping album, 'Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc, Etc'...

Happy Birthday to all Libras and Scorpios including:

1st Bonnie Owens
2nd Jo-Ei Sonnier
4th Leroy Van Dyke, Lloyd Green, Larry Collins
5th Johnny Duncan
8th Pete Drake, Susan Raye
10th Tanya Tucker
11th Dottie West, Gene Watson
13th Lacy J Dalton
14th Melba Montgomery
19th Jeannie C Riley
20th Wanda Jackson, Grandpa Jones
25th Minnie Pearl
26th Wes McGhee
27th Dallas Frazier, Floyd Cramer
28th Charlie Daniels
29th Sonny Osborne
30th Patsy Montana
31st Dale Evans, Kinky Friedman

● Lore & The Legends, another hit of the Peterborough Festival have their debut album on release in Britain. Entitled, 'One Step Ahead Of The Law', (Colt) the album features twelve original compositions in the contemporary cowboy vein...

● Canadian Ray St Germain, producer of his own syndicated TV show, has a good new single, available on Comstock Records. Entitled, 'No More On The Outside', the song has charted all over Canada and has attracted a lot of attention in The States too...

● Remember Narvel Felts, chartmaker with such great songs as, 'Reconsider Me'. (Of course you do.) What you might not know is that Narvel has a thriving fan club in Britain. For more details you can write to: Howard R Cockburn, 96 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 8SU. Please enclose SAE...

● Now here's a name for you, Beth Williams, a beautiful, young, Puerto Rican, now residing in Texas. Beth began her career pickin' and singin' during band breaks, in the San Antonio area. Her career has progressed since she started to travel (in 1984, she even appeared in Singapore). Beth has a new single on the BGM label, the uptempo, 'Wrong Train', written by Ed Penney and Jerry McBee, coupled with the self-penned, 'Blue Tonight'. Five feet seven, hazel-eyed, brown-haired Beth Williams has, I believe, a future as a singer and songwriter...

● That's it for this month. Remember there are stars in the southern sky.

—CONGRATULATIONS— COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP

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COUNTRY MUSIC

WORDSEARCH

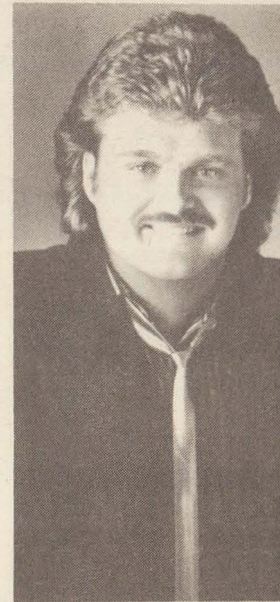
compiled by Tony Anderson

● It's the turn of the ladies this month, and you are looking for the song titles which include their names in the grid. Having done this, pair them with the artistes below (ie Hoyt Axton/Della & The Dealer). Remember to find the song titles. It's up, down, across either way or diagonally. Send your answers to reach this office no later than 31 October 1986. You could win an album of the Editor's choice, if yours is the first correct entry pulled out of the 'Wordsearch Competition' postbag. Good luck!

ROGGABYLI LESI UOLYRAMOLLEH
EANNWISHEEUDEMANYOBBXIDC
HTACOEQUEBUCKRPQUEENIENIT
TEETASNI NAABIENAVWAE RODRO
OTNQIRSCONNMELANPLEDOUAOL
MVEIULMEONWANALIYEIONCOSA
SKLNAIAEINQUIEVEDRROBANES
ACAXILLSSNNGOODBYEMARIEMME
IFDTJLEAOMNRWEERJSMMOTYAI
VOGHYMEDSRNAAHULISARYSMRR
LYAYEDAGEHERYTOTIJNDAMIIC
YHMLNYIRNYEKCDUSUZNAORNEE
SPYLIJLDYAEILNELJEANSADNI
PRROLTVOTSPELAI GAURBDEANS
GNAMEATIRSVIUAWJGTLENNAO
LMMBGZULYERINLOYEAIITASR
PLCFNEBLEMTNNLBKALROEOHIM
DEIPAKIOARETEEGLECMVNHNLJ
FBGRVMSJTLONADYMUYEIVSLTW
JANGELAJONESLDTAEJGBRFKOB
IMNSYCORHPWJAE MRRSAATATNL
KGSASEJACQUELINEDSLZEBMY
CIDSFLUGMRAWRUOYYBURIHEIV
MBOMESXEUDSOKRCATHYSCLOWN
ENPIVWYBURGNIHSIVARLTYNJS

● The artists you need to find the songs for in the grid are as follows:-

- 1 Hoyt Axton
- 2 Randy Barlow
- 3 Al Dexter
- 4 David Allen Coe
- 5 Larry Gatlin
- 6 Roy Head
- 7 Dr Hook
- 8 Ferlin Husky
- 9 Sonny James
- 10 Oakridge Boys
- 11 Jim Reeves
- 12 Charlie Rich
- 13 David Rogers
- 14 Porter Wagoner
- 15 Ernest Tubb
- 16 Sawyer Brown
- 17 Bobby Goldsboro
- 18 John Conlee
- 19 Statler Brothers
- 20 Waylon Jennings
- 21 Kenny Rogers
- 22 Dolly Parton
- 23 Gene Watson
- 24 Bobby Bare
- 25 Jessi Colter
- 26 Johnny Cash
- 27 Ed Bruce
- 28 John Denver
- 29 Everley Brothers
- 30 Billy Grammer
- 31 Merle Haggard
- 32 Tom T Hall
- 33 Stuart Hamblen
- 34 Emmylou Harris
- 35 Jim Glaser
- 36 Bobby Helms
- 37 Buddy Holly
- 38 Doyle Holly
- 39 Claude King
- 40 Bobby Lewis
- 41 John D Loudermilk
- 42 Loretta Lynn
- 43 Tommy Overstreet
- 44 Red Sovine
- 45 Marty Robbins
- 46 Sue Thompson
- 47 Mel Tillis
- 48 Conway Twitty
- 49 Slim Whitman



COFFEY'S COUNTRY NEWS FILE

Pete Coffey.

● REM'S about to be issued, fifth album, 'Lifes Rich Pageant' (The apostrophe is purposely omitted), has far more guts than usual, and bassist Mike Mills opines, 'We're a better band now than we've ever been'. Messrs Mills, Stipe, Buck and Berry undertake an extensive US tour throughout the autumn, but plans for possible British gigs in December are not ruled out.

● Among Edsel's new batch of releases are Dillard & Clark's 'Through The Morning, Through The Night', Eggs Over Easy's 'Good 'N' Cheap', and a superb collection of lesser-known, country rooted album tracks by the Lovin' Spoonful, 'Jug Band Music'. Full reviews in next month's CMRU.

● By the time this goes to press, Demon Records will have released 'Ballad Of A Thin Line Man', the new album by Giant Sand, and 'Heartland', from The Band Of Blacky Ranchette. Both bands hail from the Tucson, Arizona area and are fronted by singer/songwriter, Howe Gelb.

● Watch out for two long-overdue 'Best Of' collections from Warner Brothers. Ry Cooder's 'Why don't You Try Me Tonight?', and 'As Time Goes By', by one of the finest country boogie bands ever, Little Feet.

● IN London, Friday 19 September, to appear on Wogan and to discuss future British and European development, Ricky Skaggs took the time out to gather up his recently awarded CMRU readership trophy, as Most Popular International Male Solo Artist.

● Skaggs received the trophy from BBC Radio and Television personality, David Allan, who also interviewed Ricky for his BBC World Service & British Forces Overseas, radio programme. Skaggs' first solo album in two years, 'Love's Gonna Get You', is set for release on 3 November.

● The Weeds, from Manchester, have their debut single, 'China Doll', out on In Tape.

● 'Telecasting', (Making Waves), is an instrumental set by guitarist, Jerry Donahue, who is said to be highly rated by the likes of James Burton and Albert Lee. Meanwhile, Lee himself has the self-explanatory 'Speechless', (MCA) and the Meat Puppets carve a juicy fillet of raw 'New Wave' beefsteak on 'Out My Way', (SST Import).

● Finally, on a personal note, I thank all those friends who helped make the 'alternative' Peterborough Festival, those 'party hours' between midnight and dawn, so enjoyable. Thanks to DJ Cliff Stevens, not forgetting Kenny Rogers' better looking twin, Ted, for the generous hospitality. Rusty 'Duck' Douch for entertaining after-hours picking and wry humour. Brian Richards for all kinds of essential sustenance, and his Louisiana Hellraisers for raising hell! The rest of the CMRU team: Mick Green, for breaking down barriers; Tony Anderson, for being himself; and Jim Duncan, for his sanity. Plus, of course, Brian Ahern, for being the elder Capped Crusader, and my year-round pal. And I mustn't forget good ol' Jack Daniels, for the mellow glow. Thanks for everything lads, but most of all, your good company.

WORDSEARCH WINNER

The winner of our August Wordsearch Competition comes from Cornwall. Chris Smiththeram 47 Gibson Way Porthleven. His was the first correct entry pulled from the competition bag. Congratulations on winning an album of the Editor's choice. For those of you still struggling with the answers, here are the solutions to the August Wordsearch:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Sarah Jory | 13 Jody Lane | 25 Rose Marie | 37 Tony Best |
| 2 Dave Sheriff | 14 Stu Stevens | 26 Jon Derek | 38 Stu Page |
| 3 Al Cody | 15 Brian Golbey | 27 Frank Ifield | 39 Tammy Jones |
| 4 Thadeus Kaye | 16 Cliff Whelan | 28 Lee Moran | 40 Gary Roberts |
| 5 Bob Newman | 17 Leo Duffy | 29 Mel Hague | 41 Eddie Blackstone |
| 6 Ray Brett | 18 Frank Jennings | 30 Pete Ryan | 42 Teresita |
| 7 Shag Connors | 19 Ray Duffy | 31 Ray Lynam | 43 Mick Smith |
| 8 Bob McKinlay | 20 Manson Grant | 32 George Moody | 44 Little Ginny |
| 9 Tony Goodacre | 21 Raymond Froggatt | 33 Lorne Gibson | 45 Ann Brett |
| 10 Tammy Cline | 22 Gerry Ford | 34 Phil Brady | 46 Keith Manifold |
| 11 Carey Duncan | 23 Don Leather | 35 Philomena Begley | 47 Kelvin Henderson |
| 12 Carole Gordon | 24 Hank Walters | 36 Pete Sayers | |



IT'S GREEN IN THE COUNTRY

Mick Green

● Apparently, it is not only us who have been involved with country music for years, who have greeted the emergence of Dwight Yoakham on both the American and British scene with a great deal of joy! For at a recent Press launch for the artiste, Warner Bros Records attracted a huge crowd from all areas of the media.

● There were various TV presenters in attendance, plus DJ's from major stations, including BBC Radio One, plus journalists for music papers such as Melody Maker, NME, etc, and many musicians from other forms of music, all thoroughly enjoying the reception and listening with great interest and giving a lot of applause to Dwight's show, which lasted more than an hour.

● And why not indeed? Since the very first time I heard the album, I've been hooked on the man's music, which I can only describe as traditional, yet modern, and I can honestly say that I have not seen a similar reaction to a new country music act, at a Press reception, ever before in Britain. But again, why not indeed? This was the third time I'd seen the man and his band perform, and the biggest praise I can give is to say they were better live, than on record.

● No great show with glitter/pop, just a stage outfit of a pair of jeans with holes in the knees, good songs, a distinctive voice, and the best musicians he can find, around him. I love the throwaway lines like: 'We're bringing hillbilly

country music to London. Who knows, one day it might get to Nashville!' I love the way he turns his back on the audience as he faces his band, as he seems to hype himself up. I love the way that he is unashamedly country, and doesn't try to hide it behind pop, or copy the current trend.

I love the way he just stands there and says, he's a hillbilly who plays hillbilly music, and talks about his first hits in the States, 'Although it may not mean nothing yet to you over here, I hope you like it'. But most of all, I love the music - unarguably country! The fiddle and the lead guitar grabbing for a piece of the lead and the bass and drums holding them tight all the time.

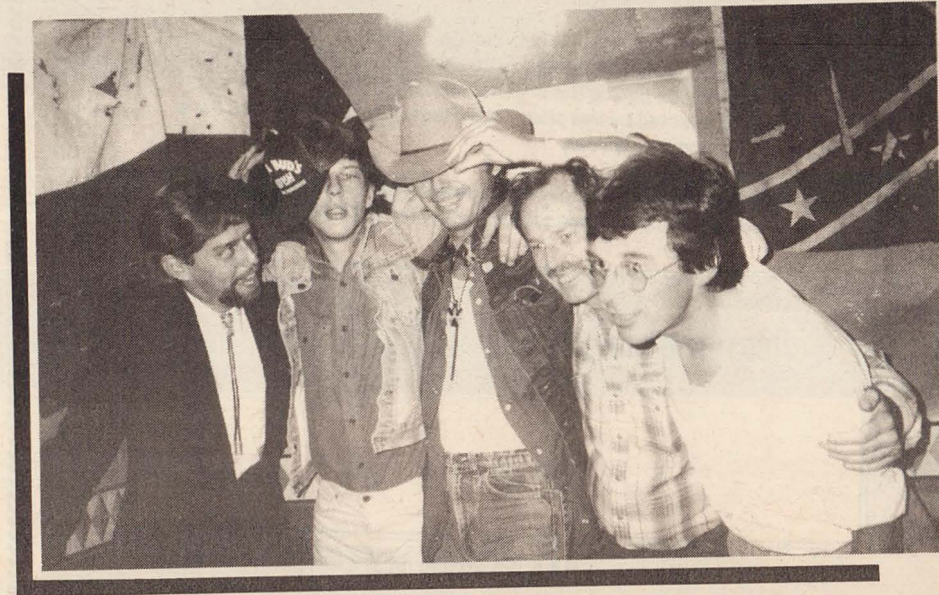
● All too often, country is greeted by other musicians with derision, but when you go to an event like this, it makes you know you can be proud to be involved with country music, and for once, you hear no sneers or snide remarks. Great!

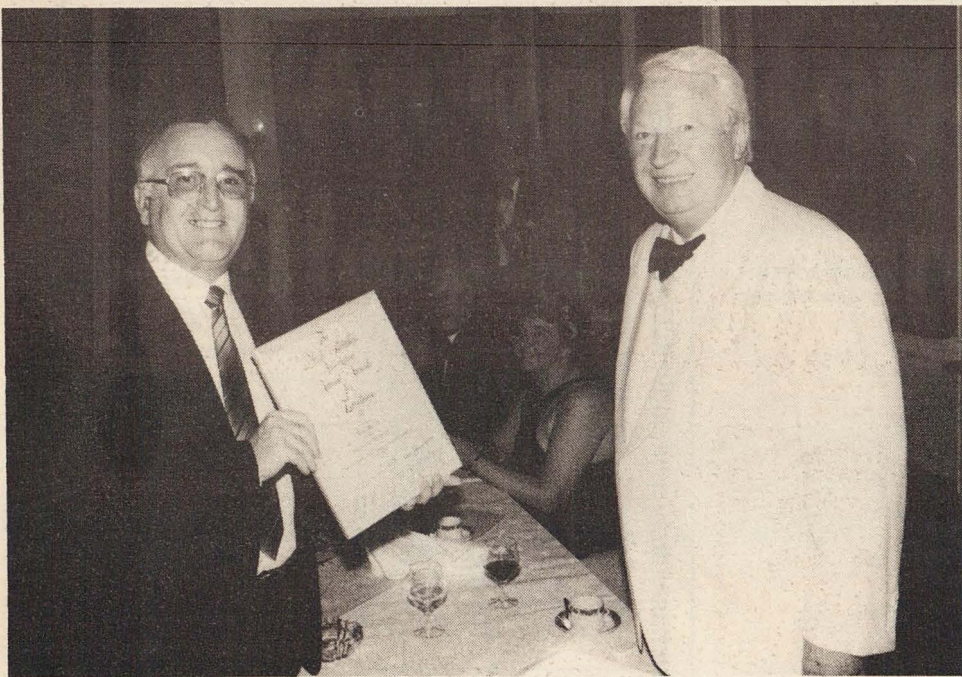
● Dwight has featured on Radio One, and the Whistle Test on TV, as well as many other radio stations and Warner Bros have said they are so pleased with the reaction, that they are now thinking of releasing more country music albums, the first of which, hopefully, will be Randy Travis' 'Storms of Life'.

● Much of the credit for the Yoakham promotion must go to the Byworth-Wootton organisation, and our picture was taken after the show when they were all celebrating.

Left to right: Sherman Halsey, Randy Kershaw (DJ Radio 1), Dwight Yoakham, Tony Byworth, Richard Wootton.

● It was interesting to also see representatives of other labels noting the interest, and once again hares were running that The Judds would be over next February, and George Strait a month later. Whether it's true or not I don't know, simply that the effect of this promotion has been a shot in the arm for country music generally.





WORD RECORDS RECEIVE ANNUAL AWARD

Paul Davis of Word Records (left) recently received the MRA award from the Right Honorable Edward Heath at a packed gathering of music industry dignitaries, in London's West End. The award was in the Folk & Country category for the successful album, 'Hymns Countrystyle' (Word WST 9656) by George Hamilton IV.

'KID' APPEARS AT GRAND OLE OPRY.

● SINCE 1980, it has been my pleasure and privilege to have been the Scriptwriter and Researcher for almost 50 TV programmes on BBC1 (Northern Ireland) TV. Produced by George Hewarding, many have been hosted by George Hamilton IV, and a strong bond of country friendship has grown up with Ireland's acts over the years. It was George who invited Kid Wayne to join him at the world-famous, Grand Ole Opry, in Nashville, USA.

● The honour to be invited on to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry where so many famous names have walked before, and the feeling of greeting from

the audience, and the millions listening to the broadcast, is almost undecipherable. I know exactly how Kid Wayne must have felt as I was similarly honoured in 1984. So August 29 1986, will have treasured memories for Kid.

● With record producer, Mike Morris, KWC Bandleader, Maurice Beckett, and friends, Kid then moved on to a St Louis, Missouri meeting with talented 16 year-old British steel guitarist, Sarah Jory, at the Steel Guitar Convention, where she is appearing. Sarah toured with Kid Wayne, earlier this year, in England, and is expected in Ireland, in October for dates.

● On his return to Nashville, Kid Wayne will be putting the finishing touches to his new LP, 'Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?'.
Tom Jones

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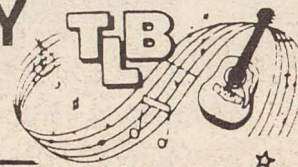
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We have been associated with the 'UK New Country' album, voted 'Album Of The Month' in the August edition of 'CMRU'. The album was produced by Joe Butler and all the acts appearing on the album are represented by this office:- Ben Rees, Stroller, White Line Fever, Harvey and Iona & Andy.

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DOUBLE 'H' CELEBRATE FOURTEEN YEARS IN COUNTRY

● IT'S always encouraging to hear of a success story, regarding the often much maligned country music club scene. Maligned, inasmuch, that all too often, country music club audiences won't readily accept radical changes in the style of music we call country, and are quite satisfied to listen to entertainers who churn out the same 'standard' fare, week after week. There are, of course, exceptions to every rule, and we are often told, one of the best examples of this is Devon's longest established country music venue, The Lord Haldon Hotel, at Dunchideock, located just five miles, south-west of Exeter.

● The Lord Haldon Hotel has been the home of the Double 'H' CMC since the early 1970's, and in that time, country music has played an important role in the hotel's activities, thanks to the efforts of a handful of local enthusiasts, who, fourteen years ago, decided to stage country music evenings at the Hotel (at that time, The Haldon House). In 1979, when the hotel was up for sale, it was feared that the country music club would be lost. However, since the Preece family became resident proprietors, they have done everything possible to ensure the long-term prospects of country music at the hotel.

● Over the years, Simon Preece has become country music club organiser, and more recently a country broadcaster.

● Besides a very personal service to members and guests alike, the Double

'H' prides itself on the fact that almost all of Britain's best-known country entertainers have appeared at the club, and it's this policy which should ensure that the Double 'H' will continue to set trends, rather than follow them. Unlike most other country music clubs in Devon, the Double 'H' is a listening venue with no dancing to distract people's attention from the quality of the stage entertainment: a point approved of by the majority of country entertainers who appear every Wednesday evening. Although Simon tells us one or two members have been known to bop around, when the music is hot, as it is on most club nights, or when they have consumed enough of the varied beverages

A very happy 14th anniversary to the Double 'H', which lays claim to being Devon's happiest and longest established country music club

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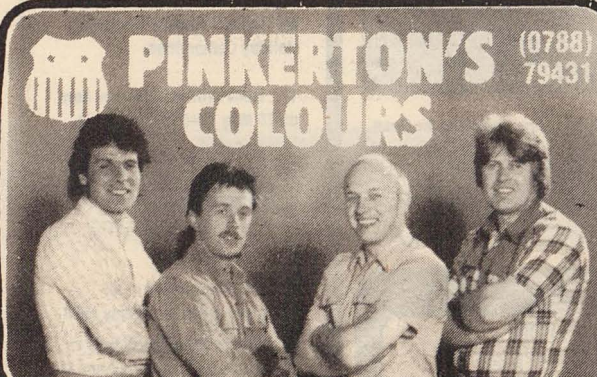
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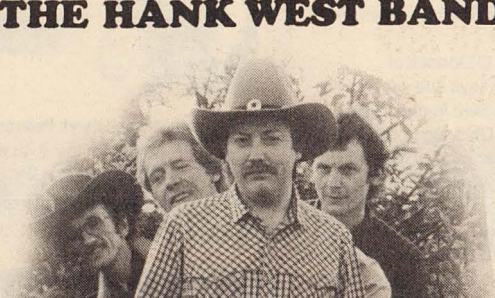
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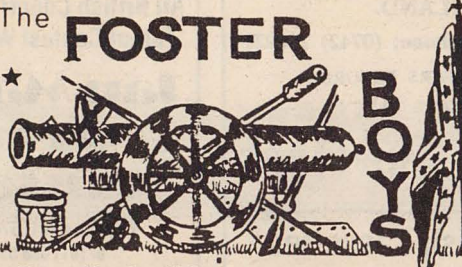


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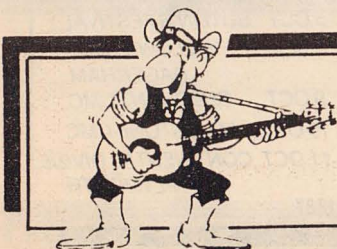
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COUNTRY QUESTIONS

● Bernard L Ferance-Aiston of Oxford tells me he joined the Country Music Appreciation Society, some two or three years ago. He duly sent his £5 subscription, and has received one newsletter in all this time. Bernard wants to know what has happened to the Society, and his five quid!

Ah, yet another fan gets his fingers burned. If it's any consolation Bernard, so did I. On checking with people whom I thought to be connected with this Society, I find that all, without exception, deny any knowledge of it. All I can say, Bernard, is, write it off to experience, and stay with the tried and trusted entities like the BCMA.

Q Thelma Frost of Kent is a real tryer. She has tried to obtain a song called, 'If I Could Dream It Back Again' by Stu Stevens, in every record store in Norwich, Oxford, Cambridge, Croydon, Bromley, and the HMV Shop in London. In desperation, this persistent lady has turned to us. Thelma also asks, on behalf of her neighbour, for details of a Connie Francis recording entitled, 'Summer Time In Venice'.

A I'm afraid I, personally, can't help you with the Connie Francis question Thelma. (Can our friends out there?) 'If I Could Dream It Back Again', is available in single format, price £1.70; and on cassette, price £5.50; both including post and package, from Ash Records Ltd, Cropwell House, Salmon Lane, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. I'm assured you'll have no difficulty obtaining your requirements. I rang Stu Stevens, and mentioned your letter Thelma. Stu asked to thank you for your interest.

Q Charles Grech of Malta would like to obtain country videos. John Smith of Kettering, asks if there is any store specialising in country videos, and if there are any fan clubs for Johnny Cash and Lonnie Donegan.

A For your visual pleasures John, you could try 'Country Music On Video', 30 Radcliffe Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5HH. (Tell them we sent you.) Now, I've two addresses for Johnny Cash's fan clubs: The Johnny Cash Appreciation Society, c/o Barry Rowden, 8 Fisher's Close, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0DB, and Johnny Cash & June Carter Cash Fan Club, Route 12, Box 350, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27107. I'm afraid I haven't an address for a Lonnie Donegan fan club, but maybe one of my friends has.

Q David Bates of Skelmersdale is only 14½ years-old, but already is a big Charlie Rich fan. David would like a fan club address.

A Write to The Charlie Rich Fan Club, c/o 8229 Rockcreek Parkway, Cordova, Tennessee 38108.

ANSWERED BY PETE SMITH AND FRIENDS

● John M Cooper of Suffolk always writes interesting letters. John thanks us and says, 'CMRU is well written, and does provide something for everyone in each issue.' Thanks John. We try our best. John poses that eternal question, 'What is country?', and cites the country content in such bands as The Cure (along with Talking Heads, my favourite rock band). John also suggests that we compile a list of descriptions, such as 'The Pat Boone Of Country Music'.

A Well, my friends, what do you think? Send me your descriptions and definitions of country music. I'll find a prize for the best of each.

● Stephen Clark of Hull was very grateful for our list of Johnny Cash duets, and poses a couple more questions. Has Johnny recorded an album called, 'They Killed Him'? Where can he obtain George Carpozi Jnr's, 'The Johnny Cash Story', published by Manor Books? Finally, he would like a Johnny Cash pen pal?

● I was at that same Sheffield concert, in 1984, when John made reference to an album containing, 'They Killed Him', but have not so far come across it. Maybe, it's still in 'the can'. In respect of the book, try Family Books, 13 Station Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 2BH. (Again, tell them we sent you.) I'm sure we'll have a lot of Cash fans wanting to correspond with you. I'll pass the letters on, as soon as they come in. Finally, thanks for informing me of the album, 'Curly Sechler & The Nashville Grass', featuring Johnny.

Q Mr T C Clay of Southampton, a proud member of the Wildwood South CMC, wants information on Adge Cutler & The Wurzels.

A This is another for you my friends, I have absolutely no ideas on this one.

Q Eddie Arnold, (no it can't be, can it?) of Pontefract, asks if Diane Solomon has an album currently on release.



A At Peterborough, Diane made reference to a new album, though I've no details as yet. However, Bulldog Records have an album on their catalogue entitled, 'Live On Tour', (BDL 3000) containing these tracks: It's All Wrong, But It's All Right; Love Me Tonight; He's Out Of My Life; Medley - You're My Best Friend, City Of New Orleans, Queen Of The Silver Dollar, Why Have You Left The One You Left Me For; All This Time; Della & The Dealer; You Can Do It; Standing Room Only; That's What Friends Are For; Help Me Make It Through The Night.

Q Stuart Smith of North Shields is anxious to obtain the album 'Expressions', by American Express, released in 1980 on the Release label.

A Maybe one of my friends can help you Stuart. In the meantime, why not try the dealers advertising in this issue.

● Jim Reynolds has been very busy researching our question about the late 40's/early 50's song containing the line, 'I'm the son of a sailor and the sea's in my blood'. Jim suggests:

- 1) Bill Monroe & Dog Watson, 'Midnight On The Stormy Sea'.
- 2) Jimmie Rodgers, 'The Sailor's Plea'.
- 3) Vernon Dalhart, 'I Have A Ship On The Ocean'.
- 4) Bob Wills, 'Gulf Coast Blues'.
- 5) Carter Family, 'Waves On The Sea'.
- 6) Carter Family, 'Log Cabin By The Sea'.

A Thanks a lot Jim. I think we can discount 1) as Doc Watson wasn't recording during the late 40's/early 50's. Also 3), as I doubt whether Vernon Dalhart's records were being broadcast during this period. It definitely isn't 6). Maybe any of my friends who have the remaining tracks would check them out. Also, I'd be pleased if anyone could check out Johnny & Jack 'Sailor Man' and Ernest Tubbs 'Seaman Blues'.

● Jeanette O'Donnell of Birmingham says she wrote to the address we gave for the Willie Nelson Fan Club, Box 517, Danbury, Connecticut, and her letter was returned.

A Many apologies Jeanette. I don't know what went wrong, but it appears we got out numbers mixed up. The address is Jan Coney, PO Box 571, Danbury, Connecticut 06810.

Q Viv Leyshon of Milton Keynes is a skiffle fan, who wants to know:

- 1) Is the skiffle revival show a regular thing, or a one off?
- 2) When and how did Bob Cort die?
- 3) The number of Chas McDevitt's, 'Takes You Back Don't It'?
- 4) The number of the Vipers' album, recently re-issued?

A I was a skiffle freak myself until the form petered out in 1960. Country music then took over and my skiffle albums became family heirlooms. So the only question I can answer is 4) The Vipers 'Coffee Bar Session' is on Rollercoaster ROLL 2011. Lonnie Donegan's appearance brought this era back to me at Peterborough, last month, when he linked the Saturday afternoon show with skiffle favourites, complete with washboard. I'll keep digging on the other questions Viv.

Q Harry Greenhalgh of Worsley, would like anyone who has VHS videos of Free Spirit in concert to contact him. Harry formed Free Spirit Fan Club some years ago, and though the outfit is now defunct, he's apparently lost none of his enthusiasm.

● My old mate Roger Padfield of Cardiff suggests that the country performer, Bob Allison, based in the north-east, has no connection with the pop duo.

● And now to those other outstanding teasers. Information on the early career of Albert Lee. Current information of Diane Pfeifer, Rose Brennan, Sue Terry and songwriter Steve Rhymer. We received a good response to Harry Fields' plea for Marty Robbins albums. This surprised me for I expected it to be with us for a long time. But with friends like you, nothing should surprise me.



READERS' PIC OF THE MONTH

Photos courtesy of Mrs B Nicholls, Saltash, Cornwall.



In the bar of the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, Lynn Anderson, Jim Glaser and the Duke Boys enjoy a close harmony vocal session, through the early hours, together with members of the Continental Divide Club, from Plymouth.

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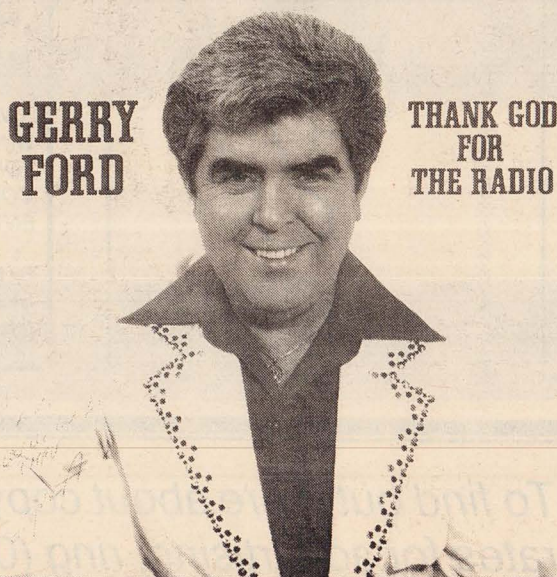
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● BOTH our two super competitions for a crate of Jack Daniels Tennessee Whiskey and Butlin's Country Weekend, attracted a really huge response, proving our readers have developed a taste for 'Jack Daniels' and Butlin's Country Holiday Weekends. Anyway, you certainly kept our adjudicators busy, and from our 'All Correct' postbox, we picked Pat Burgess, from Connah's Quay, Clwyd, as our Jack Daniels winner, and the Butlin's Holiday Weekend winners were Peggy Pelham, from East Preston, Littlehampton, and Mary Nolan, from Ketton, Stamford, Lincs. Thanks to everyone who sent in correct answers, but were unlucky.

Here are the answers to the Jack Daniels Quiz:

- A) To Your Knees
- B) Tom T Hall
- C) Dixie On My Mind

And here listed, are the answers to the Butlin's Country Weekend Holiday Competition:

- 1) Hank Williams Jnr was born on 26 May 1949 at Shreveport, Louisiana, USA.
- 2) Carl Perkins signed up originally with Sun Records.
- 3) Johnny Cash's nickname is 'The Man in Black'.
- 4) Jim Reeves died in an aeroplane crash on 31 July 1964.
- 5) George Hamilton IV was 19 years-old when he first signed for ABC/Paramount Records.



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IRISH QUEEN OF COUNTRY MUSIC - PHILOMENA BEGLEY. BY DONAL K O'BOYLE

● IT was a dream come true for songstress, Philomena Begley. From a musical debut with a ceili band in the village hall, in her native Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone, to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, in Nashville, Tennessee, The lass was awarded every major accolade on the national and international country music circuit, and the title, 'The Irish Queen of Country Music'.

● Philomena Begley was born in Pomeroy, the fourth child in a family of eight born to local breadman, Joe Begley and his wife, Josie. Her childhood days were happy ones, attending the local St Mary's School, and helping her grandmother run the local grocery store in the afternoons. On leaving school, young teenager Philomena, soon found employment in a local hat factory, for a wage of £3.50 weekly. Later on, she moved and joined the staff of the local branch of Woolworth's.

ON STAGE WITH PHILO

● The local ceili dances were the favourite form of entertainment in the 60's, and one of the favourite local ceili bands was known as The Old Cross. Leader, John O'Neill, invited Philomena to join them on stage one night, and he was so impressed with her performance, that he invited her to become a resident member of the ceili outfit for a fee of ten bob (50p) nightly. By now, ceili music was on the decline, and country-style was very much in favour. The Old Cross ceili band decided to go country, and were renamed Country Flavour, with

Philomena Begley as their lead singer. Their popularity grew and grew, and they soon became the leading attraction, not in Co. Tyrone alone, but throughout the ballroom and hall circuit.

CHART SUCCESS

● With The Old Cross, she recorded several songs for Dolphin Records, but her first chart hit emerged with the number, 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow', issued by Release Records. It spent ten weeks in the Irish top ten, back in August 1971. Her final hit with Country Flavour, was singing 'Never Again'. After that, together with her (then) boyfriend, Tom Quinn, she decided to form The Ramblin Men, which was the title of the single which launched the band into the top league. Further hits, such as 'Light In The Window' and 'Wait A Little Longer' followed, and a duet with Ray Lynam, 'My Elusive Dream' followed before our songstress parted with Release, to launch her own label, Top Spin.

● After a long romance, Philomena and Tom were married in 1974, setting up their new home at Galbally, just outside Pomeroy. By day, the happy couple were to be

found on the farm, and by night, touring the ballroom circuit with the Ramblin Men. What a schedule. Playing, on average, 250 ballroom dates at home, and concerts throughout Britain, Europe and America - recording and television dates added. For such became her yearly programme. She also had Irish chart success with such singles as, 'Blanket On The Ground', 'Once Around the Ballroom', along with albums, 'Ramblin Men', 'Blanket On The Ground', 'Queen Of The Silver Dollar', and 'Truckin Queen'.

THE HAPPY EVENT

● The stork arrived at the Quinn's in December 1976, bringing a daughter, Mary Patricia, for Philomena and Tom. Within a matter of months Philomena was back on the bandstand. In '77 she joined Hank Locklin on stage at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, for one week and she returned to the Country Festival in Wembley, before she headed off to Nashville to record albums such as, 'Nashville Country' and 'Fireside Country' under Porter Wagoner, in the Fireside Studios. She also appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, and guested on Porter's coast-to-coast television series.

● In November 1979, son Aiden Joseph was born, and in May 1981, they had their third arrival, another daughter, Carol Diane. Philomena toured Europe with Charley Pride and Emmylou Harris. Then in 1981,

BBC Television in Northern Ireland invited her to co-host 'Make Mine Country' with George Hamilton IV, which included many of her favourite national and international stars as guests.

NUMEROUS ACCOLADES

● Her farm-cum-home at Galbally is now littered with accolades. Silver, Gold and Platinum Discs for her multi-selling singles, albums and cassettes. Trophies and awards as Ireland's top vocalist, from various publications. RTE's Entertainer of the Year etc. The European Gold Star Award is there also, along with the 1985 BCMA acknowledgement.

● By 1984, she had disbanded the Ramblin Men to resume her successful partnership with Ray Lynam. They made the Music Week/CMA album charts with their album, 'Simply Devine', and the lower regions of the British pop charts with, 'She Sang The Melody'. Ray and Phil have lately enjoyed a comeback, at Wembley, and on numerous British tours, as well as in countless television guest spots, and have appeared in 'specials' together, at home and in Britain.

● So after two decades on the bandstand, Philomena Begley still remains as popular as ever, even with a new generation of country fans. By day, she is still the farmer's wife and mother, and by night she becomes 'The Irish Queen of Country Music' to countless thousands at home and overseas.



PHILOMENA BEGLEY WITH
DANIEL O'DONNELL

Photo Neilly Keeney

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● ANOTHER hectic month on the country scene saw me catch my first 'Fever' at Lingdale Social Club, Nashville Fever, that is. Looking, playing and incredibly sounding the part, they breathed fresh life into my mundane existence. Original material from the pen of lead singer, Colin Ford abounded, supplemented by high powered numbers suited to the driving percussion work of Ken Dunning. Ali Thorn, bass, and Roy Bell, steel and lead, showed themselves to be outstanding musicians. Add to this, four competent lead vocalists, tight harmonies, and what have you got? A band well worth seeing, that's what! . . . West Virginia, also gave a knockout performance at Lingdale, so the punters at this club are well pleased.

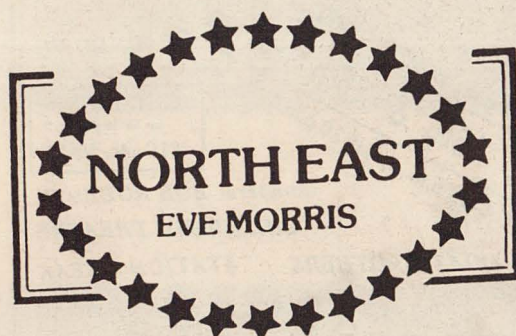
● Jimmy Burns centres his Hartlepool area report, this month, on the town's Iona Club. Apparently, an exceptional opening show from Dillinger was followed by a pleasant show from Leeds', Shotgun Duo (but were disappointing material-wise). Apache too, pleased the majority of fans, at Rover's Quits Club, but again, Jim felt a change of material was needed. Then, J D Band proved crowd-pleasers with numbers to suit most persuasions. Finally Jim recalls the Blackspur Road Band gave an exciting display, which left no one disappointed.

● Scottish quartet, Appaloosa, failed to live up to expectation, on my first look at them. Their lack-lustre show, at Ayresome Quits Club, belied their media reports.



● I wrote, some months ago, I didn't think it would be long before Andy Brown, ex-lead singer with High Plains Drifter, would, once again, be back in force on the country music scene, in the north-east. After pursuing a rather limited career as a solo act, he is now fronting the recently-formed, Dollar Band . . . with Andy & Mick Vicary (drums), Terry Ellis (lead guitar/banjo), and Tony Hornsby (bass guitar). Although the band still need to tighten up their act somewhat, there is no mistaking the popularity of Andy, as witnessed by a full house at the Gunfighters CMC, Hebburn (the first time in months!). I have heard that certain clubs in the area have refused to book this band! (Their loss I'm sure!)

● The Chuck Wagon CMC who meets monthly (each last Wednesday), at the Fleece Inn, Alnwick, recently had a successful appearance from popular local duo, Dave Milner and Kevin Tweddle, who collectively form Deuce.



● IT was quality music and entertainment from Dave Bryan with Pat and Roger Johns. Ages since I saw the threesome working together in this area, which is certainly the punters loss. The evening was hosted by Harrogate CMC at their regular venue (alt. Wednesdays) of the Harrogate Football Club, and was one of the more popular shows of the year. Had a pleasant chat to the vacationing Bob and Peggy Ostler, who for several years have promoted and supported country music in Hull. Their present centre of operations is Oliver's Club, which despite its outwardly austere appearance, offers a warm and hospitable welcome.

● Leeds-based Shotgun Duo, alias Tony and Mike, played to an enthusiastic crowd at the Stables, Knaresborough. A bit short on patter between numbers, but for variety, content and value, quite unbeatable. Guesting later in the month, was west-country singer/songwriter, Johnny Spencer, who understandably, still relates the tale of his Swiss festival

(Perhaps a case of another man's meat, nuff said.) Leaving early for Redcar's Royal Navy Club, where two thirds of Shakedown were last-gasp replacements for the scheduled act, creating more variation in sound and material, than the afore-mentioned quartet.

● The formidable two-pronged lead vocals and harmonies of Phil Lloyd and Ken Durrant were heard to full advantage, when the Shack Band guested at Longlands Social Club - 'Seven Spanish Angels' and 'So We Can Love Some More' - pure magic.

● The recently-formed Dollar Band showed their lack of time together, when they appeared at South Bank FC. Relying heavily on the material, and strong vocals of Andy Brown, they have still to find their own identity as a band.

● Ken and Stan Andrews worked themselves to near exhaustion entertaining members at Barnard Castle's Go Country club. Their golden oldies programme was seemingly appreciated by everyone present. During the interval, Stan backed guests from the floor, three individual efforts from the glamorous Glaxo Girls, Tammy, Emmy and Dolly (alias Carol, Doreen and a certain Mrs Towler) won great approval from the audience. The £348 raised on the night was increased to a wonderful £1,900, via Treasurer, Jim Rutherford's sponsored walk, with two pals, along the Pennine Way. The club's monthly raffle (prizes donated by members) has also raised a further £1,200 this year, for various local charities. A magnificent effort by all, an example for other clubs to follow.

● Living up to their excellent press reports, Spill The Beans gave a very bright, breezy performance, at Yarm's New Cross Keys Hotel. They have definitely fulfilled early promise shown, when I saw them in '84. Mac's superb vocal is much to the fore, with more than

● I took a trip outside the area, to Leyburn, North Yorkshire, to attend a country show featuring an excellent duo (new to me) called Montana Blue; local favourites, Key West; and Campbell's Country. This excellent show was well-supported, particularly by members of the Big D CMC, Darlington, and the Go CMC, Barnard Castle. Apparently, Key West are now to be known as the Dallas Cowboys.

● The Go CMC, which meets at the Glaxo Sports & Social Club, Barnard Castle, on the first Sunday of each month, is generally well supported, and always features top bands. Among their forthcoming attractions are the Duke Boys.

● An exciting, new venture, which is opening in Newcastle, is a restaurant serving authentic Mexican food, and featuring live, Tex/Mex music, nightly, with star attractions such as the Wes McGhee Band lined up to appear. Definitely something to support . . . From a new restaurant, to one which has become renowned throughout the area, in past years, as a place for good music, and home cooking - the Rancho del Rio, Ireshopeburn, Weardale, is again featuring country music, square dancing etc, particularly on Friday nights. So, go along and tell them we sent you.

● It is good to report, Radio Newcastle has decided, once again, to promote country music, on Sunday afternoons, between 1.05 pm and 2 pm, with a programme entitled, 'Summer Country', compered by

appearance, when he was joined on stage by Willie Nelson. As yet, no news leading to the recovery of Johnny's stolen guitar and equipment.

● Regional promoter, John Kernan, rising back onto the circuit, like a Phoenix, with his top class shows now being staged at the Irish Centre in Leeds. Last month's country offering was an appearance by Flaco Jimenez and the San Antonio Band, with support by Zipp Gun and the Bayou Big Shots. The Big Shots, apparently being stranded in New Orleans (but for three years!), enabled Paul/fiddle, and Mike/melodian, to give free rein to some authentic Cajun tunes and songs. The San A Band, for this section of the tour, comprised of Oscar Tellez/banjo, sexto and keyboards; Henry Valdarama/bass; Bob Clouter/drums; Johnny/saxophones and harmonica. The tremendous atmosphere generated by the band was due, in part, to the inclusion of the tenor and alto saxes, and also the extra percussion. A brilliant performance from Flaco, with some great harmony vocals from Oscar and Henry, particularly enjoyed one of their newer numbers, 'Rio Grande', written for the film soundtrack. Whilst in Leeds, Flaco, undisputed king of the Tex/Mex accordion, found time to record two album tracks with local heroes, Brendon Croker & The 5 O'Clock Shadows. Future plans include a return European tour, also with visits to Hungary and Russia.

● Nearly had to swim to Masham, home of Theakston's brewery, for the Bank Holiday gig. Neil Cutts, ably assisted by henchman, Keith, has the bit firmly between his teeth, with the promise of a return

adequate back up vocals, by Tony and Sue, producing outstanding two/three part harmony. A good cross section of material, presented well, by this smart trio, provided a night of pure pleasure.

● Sue Madison opened Guisborough Quits' month, where (tenth anniversary boys) West Virginia were at their effervescent best. The 'House Full' sign, which welcomed late arrivals, said it all. The familiar strains of Tynesides, Moat Brothers, were also heard last month, at the Quits, with support coming from Whitby's Nashville Cats Duo. Bob Allison's lesser-known material, and relaxed, laid-back style is always easy on the ear, whilst Apache, supplying comedy and music for the dancing fraternity, were well received.

● My show of the month was Ireland's T R Dallas Band's opening night of a twelve-day tour of Britain. The 450 crowd safety limit, at Middlesbrough's, Dorman's Athletic Club, was stretched to the hilt. Although not my brand of country, the undoubted class of this very entertaining outfit, shone through like a beacon in the dark. Irish Country Music stalwarts, Basil Hendricks, steel/lead, Al Treacy, drums, and Padraig Whelan, keyboards, were joined by Johnny Gleeson, rhythm, and Pierce Dunn, bass. Skillfully featuring each member of the band, both vocally and instrumentally, throughout the evening, they provided one of the most enjoyable nights this venue has had for some time. Particularly appealing were 'Whiskey Castle', and T R's Irish chart No. 1, 'Daddy's Girl'

● Continued loud chatter and 'gunfire' spoil my first look at Scotland's Gambler, at Stockton's R A O B Broken Horseshoe CWC. However, I heard enough to warrant catching them next time around. Departing early, yet again (becoming a habit), we called into Middlesbrough Cycling Club, to see three, very proficient and versatile musicians, in the shape of California's Eclectic Cats, displaying some well matched harmonies over a wide range of country, from ol' timey to western swing. A large crowd also enjoyed

John Cairns. It has the usual mixture of requests and dedications, along with club news, and a wide variety of music. The programme is repeated on Monday evenings at 6 pm. Make sure you support the programme with your letters etc, and help keep it on the air.

● Stu Page & Remuda recently appeared at the North & South CMC, Gateshead, and the Country Jamboree CMC, Consett, and certainly showed why they deserved to receive the Country Music Round Up Readers award for Most Promising British Act, Whilst nominee finalists in the Most Popular British Group category, Colorado, appeared at the Outlaw CMC, Lanchester. So there has been a good selection of talent in the area lately. I note, also, winner of the Most Popular Male Solo Act, Raymond Froggatt, is scheduled to appear at Gateshead Leisure Centre, this month, together with fellow award winners, The Duffy Brothers, plus Kelvin Henderson, Bob Newman and Carole Gordon.

● Calamity Jane info's that tickets for the charity show, in aid of Operation Heartbeat, which takes place at the Stella Maris Social Club, Washington, on Wednesday, October 8 are selling well. The show features Gordie West, the Moat Brothers, and, from Belgium, Bourbon.

● News, views, comments, etc: George J Mills, 15 Coatsworth Court, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1QR. Telephone, Gateshead 781885.

Flaco booking next year, with more quality band bookings between times. The support at this venue was provided by the Darlington/Ripon-based Mississippi Sheikies, who opened with 'Stormy Monday Blues', and swiftly followed by some hard-hitting southern country rock.

● Grass Roots, at the Leeds Bluegrass Club, earned the praise and respect of the audience, not only for their tender years, but for their expertise and delivery. Strong bass solos from 12 year-old Sarah, with fine mandolin work from brother, Simon, and proud father, Bill on guitar. Their programme included material from Mac Wiesman, and gospel songs.

● The latest 'Non-Event' festival was at Patrington Leisure Park, fifteen miles seaward, from Hull. Lots of classic, old, western films on offer at the camp cinema, and a spread of local acts available at the concerts, failed to draw the punters in large enough numbers to bring a token success to the venture. (Perhaps some CMRU advertising might have helped.)

● The Ventura Highway Duo continue as residents, Tuesdays at the Rose & Crown, Sutton on the Forest . . . The Harlequin, Manchester Road, Huddersfield is currently promoting country every Wednesday . . . The Dick Turpin, at Sutton in Derwent, and the Cock & Bottle, in Ossett town centre, both have country scheduled for Thursdays . . . The Buck Inn, Rufford, nr York, continue their successful country nights, with the General Tarleton, at Ferrensby, also booking country on a regular basis . . . Christine Walker

the visit of Norwich-based Nashville Fever. The progressive outlook of the Blackspur Road Band was highlighted by the fascinating sounds emanating from lead guitarist, Mark Taylor's Roland synth GR707, producing, what must be a unique sound amongst British country bands. Their own version of 'The Yellow Rose Of Texas', done Status Quo style, was, again, something different. I found my first viewing of them quite interesting.

● Spill The Beans thrilled Dorman's Athletic regulars with another cracking display, recruiting a host of new admirers. Great to see a band change its material for each gig in a particular region . . . Baz Norton's fine basswork, and Billy Williams' vocals appealed to patrons at a full, Lobster Hotel . . . Treat in store for Dorman's Athletic members, look out for The Moody Brothers and Wendel Adkins this month . . . Soloist, Eric White celebrates 25 years in the entertainment business, coinciding with his 40th birthday . . . New venues at, The Station Hotel, Stokesley, Mondays, and Wharton Arms, Skelton, every other Tuesday . . . Looking for Marty Robbins albums, 'R F D', and 'Turn The Lights Down Low'. Any offers? . . . Leon Moat, of Moat Brothers fame, has been looking after BBC Radio Cleveland's 'Country Time' show, this month. The saga of Laundon fingers, continues . . . No response to my request for info from Darlington, Bishop Auckland area. Fancy spurning free publicity. Any change of heart can still find me, Keith Render, at the following address: 21 Scanbeck Drive, Marske by Sea, Redcar, Cleveland. Telephone (0642) 476509.

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is now at the helm of Ripon country, at the Ship Inn (every two weeks) . . . The Western Union Band currently have a residency at the Hotel St Nicholas, in Scarborough.

● Freddie Alva finally have their cassette available, their line up now being increased to seven members for most gigs . . . Roger Cook is again assisting with the bookings at the Golden West CMC, at the Carpenter's Arms, Fenton, nr Torksey, Lincs . . . I hear Stella and the Dealer will be available shortly in band format for larger venues. Also, the Marty R Club is opening a new season of shows with Chuck Leyburn (fan club details in last month's letters page) and John Aston at the Town Hall, Kirkby Malzeard this month.

● Finally, if music at the seaside is a must, then catch a copy of the Tony Best events guide for '86/'87. Superb line up of artistes at all the venues with his club charity fund for '85/'86 now topping the £2,000 mark.

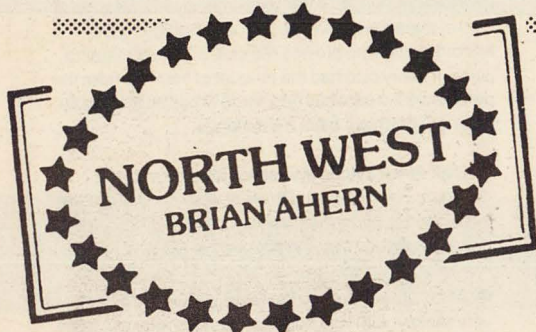
● Thanks for the 'phone calls and info, but don't stop now! Continue sending to: Eve Morris, 18 Powell Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4BY. Telephone: (0423) 508081



● PETERBOROUGH has come and gone, this past month. Great to meet the Guv'nor and the rest of the CMRU crew. Had some great personal moments. Dwight was all that was expected, have carried his legend on. Brian Ahern and I thought Del Reeves and Kitty Wells were brilliant inclusions, Bruce could do no wrong. Thanks to everybody for voting for our Midlands jewel, Froggatt

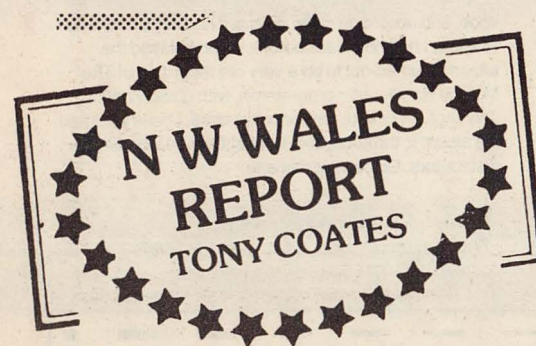
● Saw Froggatt perform the night before Peterborough, at the Circle D Club in Broseley. The man did a set blended for the westerners and strangers, in that night, delving into his memory for some country rock and his interpretations of the club standards.

● In complete contrast, Froggatt's show for Derek O'Halloran, at the Crest, Walsall, was an exercise in presentation. Suffering from a slight cold, he still gave a great encore, plus the drum solo in Stone Mountain.



● TOP of the column goes to Patricia Hayes, and her resident staff at The Welcome CMC, in celebration of the club's tenth anniversary. Throughout the past decade, this small, aptly named club, has been a credit to country music. It has presented the very best in British country music for its dedicated, listening members, always in the most pleasing conditions. To visit The Welcome is not just another night out, its an experience of pleasure, which leaves one with a feeling of pride towards the British country music club scene. Long may The Welcome CMC continue to serve us so well.

● Caught three shows at the Cheshire CMC, in Macclesfield, which is not surprising, being the club's resident compere (time permitting). First show featured a new name to the area, Silverwheel Express. This Notts-based band impressed with its varied choice of material. The lead singer has a smashing, recordable voice. It's a band to watch out for. Guest spot went to Crewe-based Jonathan Golde.



● IT may come as a surprise to many people, that there is more than a welcome in the hillsides and the vales of North West Wales, they are literally alive with the sounds of Country Music. Yes, this far-flung outpost of the UK enjoys its own little, thriving country scene, as many a top British act will testify. And we don't just import country music, we have our share of exports, in the shape of artistes, such as Iona & Andy - recent nominees in CMRU's Most Popular British Country Duo/Trio award; Tammy Jones, now domicile in the South Midlands, of England, but still a favourite when she returns. Then there's a duo, whom I think you will be hearing a lot more of, Montana Blue. They made many new friends last year, during a two-week tour of England's North East, and will shortly be returning to slay 'em all again, as their hectic summer schedule eases.

● Talking of one of Wales' premier outfits, at Wolverhampton CMC's Friday club, at the Albion, Wednesfield, Clovis put on a very competent show, but there was nothing exciting or new. OK, it was done well, but a time traveller would not be able to say what the year was. I brought the subject of Dwight Yoakam up and nobody had heard any of his songs!!! Try daytime radio, national or local, or even Andy Peebles on Radio One.

● Desperado, from Woverhampton, have had some unwelcome assistance in distributing their new cassette. A tea-leaf lifted the small suitcase, full of the product being offered for sale at a gig the other night. If you are offered a copy, remember Despo are the sole outlet.

● Crept over the border into Sheila Kenny's country to watch West Virginia and Ian Ashcroft boogie Besty's Lazyacre Club in Shrewsbury. Tony was having one of his rare dance nights. West Virginia have kept the 'Pool Flag' flying a long time now, and are very tight as a four-piece. Long gone is the image of lazy, hard to work band, these attack and get on stage with vigour each time. Good to see Tony Best fit and well again.

● Telford's Foster Boys are increasing again. The lads went to Peterborough to play on the show-case, all their own songs as well. While they were there, bass-player, Robert Dillon's wife, Tony, was rushed to Peterborough



Marie Lester

● My final show of the month at Macc featured The Boss Brothers, from Wigan. This modern trio could, quite easily, take its show to any type of venue in the entertainment sphere, and come away with credibility. The Boss Brothers are slick, smooth and easy on the ear.

General for the birth of their first son, Richard. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Noel and June, their first grandson after seven granddaughters.

● The Foster Boys lead singer and songwriter, Noel Dillon has arrived, at last, having achieved the heights of a song banned on the radio, WOW! The offending line is in his civil war song, 'Bull Run', recorded by Dorset-based, Pete Palmer, what was it that shocked Radio Wyvern? Sex, Swearing? Drugs? No, the rebel sings, 'chase those Yankee swine, up and down the line,!' Might offend our American brothers, what about 'chased the bloody British down to New Orleans,' then!!

● At long last, Beacon Radio in Wolverhampton, and BRMB in Brum, no longer air their country shows at the same time. Beacon moves country to the prime slot of 9-11 on Friday nights. Well, they said it was a prime slot.

● Funny how the students get the hang of things quickly. Wolverhampton SU are putting the Bluberry Hillbillies into a show soon.

● Little club in Walsall has managed to just hold its head above water. The Golden Saddle suffered the western plague. Half the cowboys saddled up and opened another club in Bloxwich - The Rhinestone Cowboy. With a lot of thought, they chose the same night to put on their shows. (It's like festivals, lets all have them at the same time.)

Guest spot saw ex-Herman's Hermit, Pete Cowap wrap his golden pickin' fingers and bluesy tonsils around some good ol' country music. The following week (with me on duty in Peterborough), it was Dillinger's turn on the club stage. It was also the club's best-attended show, compered by Pete Hunt (is there a message in there for me?).

● Dashing back from Liverpool, where I put in an appearance on Joe Butler's Countrystyle, on Radio City, to The Stretford CMC, to make the club's first annual Band of the Year awards, was a pleasure. The club's choice was Marie Lester & Hobo, who were the booked band on this special night, and they treated the audience to a special show. The were delighted at winning their first club award. Marie Lester, who is actually off to America to seek her fortune, in the New Year, even had this ol' hard nose, bright eyed and streaming with her trophy acceptance speech. Congratulations to the organisers and members of Stretford CMC for making this Liverpool lady of song, and her band, such happy people.

● Derbyshire farmer, Jim Bradley and his family and friends have a unique-to-Britain style of country music festival presentation. It takes the form of a 'Drive-In' show, and it's smashing. The site is a massive valleyed field on Jim's farm, where two covered trailers serve as a double stage. There's western wear; records; food and drinks stalls; clean, mobile toilets; good lighting rigs; and bales of straw to provide out-of-car seating; plus a great sound system - in fact, just about everything required for this type of open-air event. Even

● Had to go to Oxford to catch Flaco this tour, after the Dudley date at JB's was pulled out. Roger Humphries has another 'New Band' on the road.

● Didn't get to Beline, Carey & Hickman show, just as well, as it was over-subscribed, and BCH turned in some immaculate music. John Atkins has some mouthwatering acts lined up for the future.

● Various governments have spent fortunes building motorways through the Midlands, but you are going to have to use them if you want to see the Boxie/Russell tour. Midlanders don't you want these 'big shows'? You do? Write to the promoters and tell them then!

● Rio Grande are looking for a female vocalist to brighten their show up. They suffered a bit, when their drummer left them.

● Ken Harris is back on the road again with a scratch band called, Company (bound to be good).

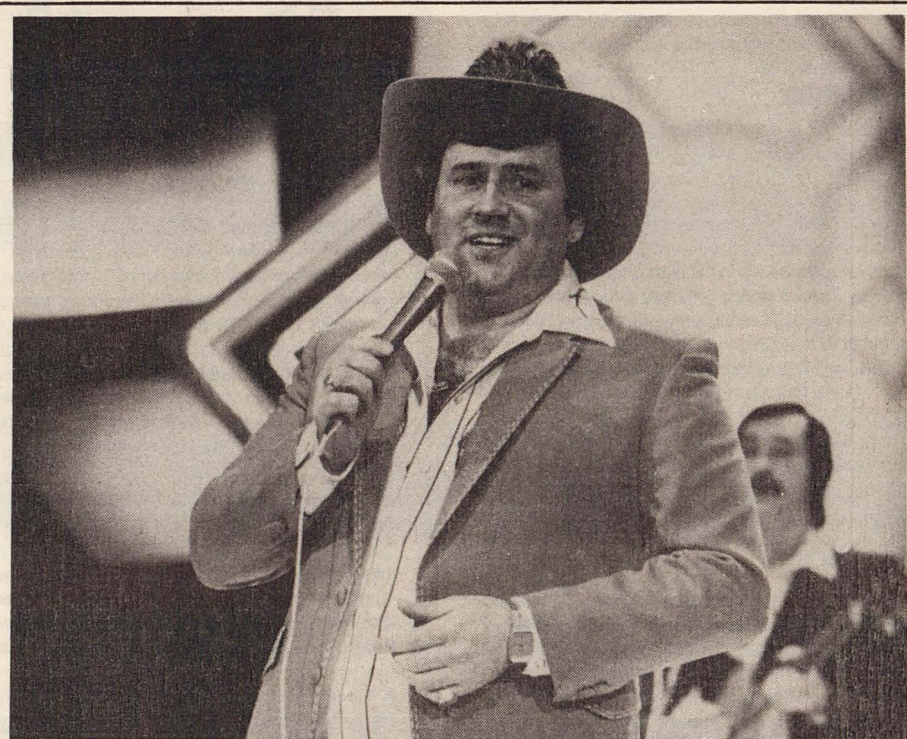
● Al Boden has surfaced again with a good collection of acoustic men behind him, in Bewdely.

● Now the silly summer season's over, country should start climbing back. Be bold, advertise it and tell others what you are doing. Tell me, Jim Duncan, 148 Warrensway, Woodside, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 5QF, that's (0952) 583672. Don't get caught or killed.

the view across the Derbyshire hills and valleys is a sight to behold. The show runs for 12 hours, with all but the top of the bill making two stage appearances. Two of the local radio, country music broadcasters, took care of the compere/stage management duties. Peter Hook, Colin Ramsey, supported by Peter Gwilt, all worked well. The live country music featured Laurel Canyon, Silverwheel Express, Linda & Arthur James, Mountain Davy & Kitty Slicker, Bucksin Country Band, plus Raymond Froggatt and his super band. The daytime weather was, once again, kind, and the good-natured audience had played their part in making the day a success. It was just one of those smashing days.

● Manchester's City Centre Bierkeller, has returned to country music presentation, after a lengthy lay-off, by forming its own country music club on Thursday evenings. Resident DJ is Ian Ashcroft with his Country Express Disco, but I was invited along to comper the opening night, which got a good start with Pete Cowap, who, incidentally, runs his own country music club, in Heywood, Lancs, and Stroller, a band which is gaining a very good reputation. There were several well-known country music faces, in the audience, with nice things to say, ref. the potential of this new, City Centre, country music venue.

● Bob Roberts reports on some smashing nights to be had at the twice-weekly, Hodder Bridge Hotel. Things are looking good, in this neck of the country woods. There's a lot more to report, but space has once again beaten me. keep in touch and I will try and tell the world! Brian Ahern, 11 Villdale Avenue, Stockport, SK2 5SQ. Telephone: 061 483 9532.



T R Dallas

● Talking of making new friends, I hope this new column does just that. I'm indebted to the Editors for giving me the opportunity of putting our area on the CMRU map, and look forward to being of assistance to anyone requiring news of the local scene. As a journalist, I believe I may have the unique distinction of writing the only weekly country music column in Wales, and possibly the UK, and I like to think the Gwynedd Leader, a free newspaper, serving the area, has helped keep country fans in touch with many of the local, national, and international happenings, for over three years.

● Iona & Andy recently impressed at Holyhead, Pwllheli, and the folk at the Price Llewelyn Hotel, Aberffraw, where they are developing some successful country music nights. Steelie guitarist, Sarah Jory, appeared with Iona & Andy, at the Naval Club, Holyhead, despite a bad throat infection, which unfortunately prevented her appearance at the Gimlet Club, Pwllheli.

● T R Dallas was another visiting artiste to suffer throat problems, but managed to give his usual bouncy, effervescent spot at the Anglesey Aluminium Sports & Social Club, Holyhead, ably assisted by the superb Dallas Band.

Bob McKinlay's Dixie Fried made a popular return to play the same venue during the last week of August. Bob rates highly with the locals hereabouts, and rarely fails to draw a sell-out crowd. Also on the bill were Anglesey's popular duo, Griff 'n' Tex.

photographs

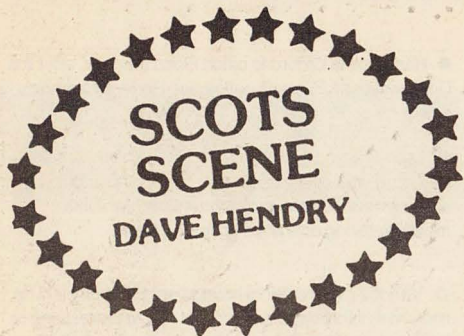


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● Being the last, or the first step, - as the case may be - before crossing the Irish Sea, Holyhead has hosted many visits by top Irish acts, including Eileen King, T R Dallas, Ray Lynam, Two's Company. Many bona fide country music clubs thrive in Holyhead and Bethesda, plus, the pub and clubs circuit is orientated towards country music, both in the medium of Welsh and English.

● Unfortunately, space limits all regional reports, but I hope readers will find something of interest in my monthly contributions. Please write to me, Tony Coates, 104 High Street, Bangor, LL57 1NS, or telephone me on (0248) 364994, with any news, views, etc on the local scene, also anyone visiting the area. 'Til the next time, take care.



● ANOTHER summer(?) season gone, and thank you to all our friendly holidaymakers, who made use of the country diary . . . and returned picture postcards. Into another season, and already, most clubs have their sights set on Christmas country shows. It has been quite noticeable, the amount of private functions taking place, in the country field: weddings, engagements, anniversaries, etc - all looking to country bands more than ever. With this in mind, most club secy's have taken precautionary measures by booking well into '87 - there are a few booked through the entire year, including the Yuletide season. All of which points to one obvious factor, no matter what the attendances at 'main shows', club fans are remaining loyal to the local scene.

SALT COATS

● One of the three prominent clubs in Ayrshire is White Horse CWC, held monthly at the local Labour Social Club under direction of prexy, Danny Strachan. Concentrating mainly on local acts - Carmel & Mississippi, Bakersfield, Vision Country Music, Country Blues, Carol West Band, etc, the club have a firm belief homesters can give just as good as their southern-based friends - and who can find fault in their way of thinking. Being in the envious position of having 100% support from the Labour SC committee, the lack of enthusiasm is non-existent.

DUMFRIES

● Double K CMC fans gave a problem. There have been so many top shows at the Embassy Hotel venue, they are left in an envious situation of having to wonder who has been best. Recent visitors, Collier Dixon Line, Dave Sheriff/Nicki Clarke Duo, Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried, Colorado, to name but a few, have set such a high standard, it is now a question of, can they keep it up? Jim Kerr has every confidence that there are so many more well, and lesser known acts, who will grace the stage and keep the Full House signs standing in the doorway. One of the 'lesser known' acts was one, Jamie Price, who gave more than a good account of himself, when support act to Poacher. J P needs this experience, and will come on greatly for it . . . and a darned talented songwriter to boot. This month, the Double K have Liverpudlian lass, Marie Lester with Hobo, and special note for November, is an extra date being set for the Linda Cassidy/West Virginia show . . . nuff said on full houses.

● Like their Dumfries colleagues, the fans at Southern Star CWC are in a quandary as to who tops their popularity poll, and a quick glance at the diary shows the difficulty they face. Cotton Mill Boys, Spill The Beans, John King, Manson Grant & The Dynamos, John F Stone & Stone Band. You name 'em, and they seem to have taken favour at SS club. Progression is the name of the game for Europa Lounge-based club, and each weekly Wednesday will see something extra added to the prog. Secy, Isa Craig and pressy, Bert Jess, have their targets in mind for the future, and it wouldn't come as any surprise to learn they too have booked well into '87.

KILWINNING

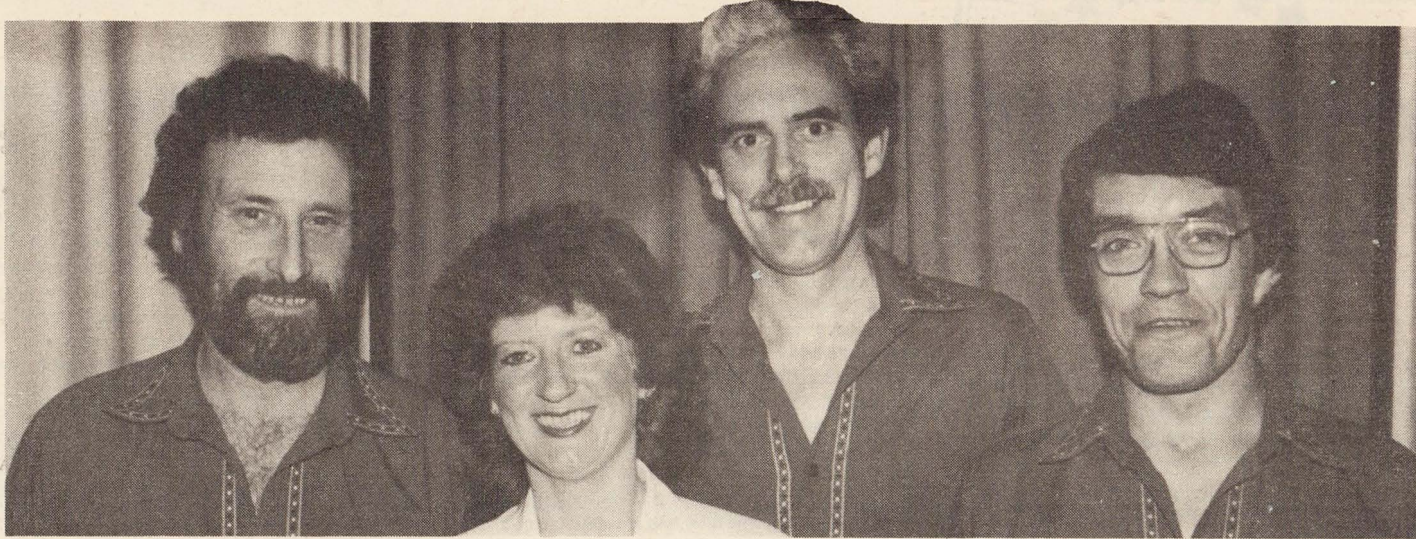
● Charity is always foremost in the minds of all - committee and members - at the Southern Comfort CWC during their weekly Saturday meets at the PHAB Hall. So much so, the club have been first in line to stage the 1987 SCMF Awards show, and if that isn't advance thinking, what is? Club favourites, Bakersfield, seem to be in their element when the diary shows this venue. Likewise, Carol & Bobby go out as a duo and increase to a trio as required - then known as the Carol West Band. I think that sorts that one out! Nonetheless, entertaining in either mode, and well worth a night out to catch the act. Once a month, specials have to be held by Southern Comfort CWC in order to accommodate 'bigger' names, and these are held at the local Community Hall. Manson Grant & The Dynamos and Colorado are two of many who have had overflow turnouts, at the monthly gigs.

MARKINCH

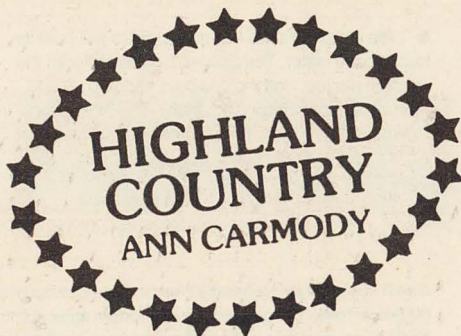
● One of the longest established clubs in Scotland (no one seems to know exactly how long) has recently undergone committee changes. The only two-tier venue I have come across north of the border; sound problems have been experienced by a few bands, but perhaps that is because some enjoy blasting audiences out of their seats. Sound checks are a must here, and usually more beneficial to all concerned.

IN CLOSING . . .

● Sincere good wishes to retiring committee members, Allan and Dorothy Watkins. The husband and wife team have played an excellent part in the continuation of Wayfarers CWC, and given great service to country music, in general. Cheers! David K Hendry, 121 Marmion Road, Greenfaulds, Cumbernauld, G67 4AW.



Route 65, left to right: Jim Buckholm, Maureen Johnson, Charlie Burrells, Brian Thomson.



● MANY thanks to the numerous enquiries regarding my health, which, happily, is A1. The vocal problems are not caused by anything serious, although I am not able to do so much shouting as previously, a blessing in disguise, some would say!

● When Coffee & Cream, a four-piece from Londonderry, toured the Highlands recently, they were very well received. A very versatile outfit, with lead singer, Trevor Keyes having a great voice with a very wide range . . . Also from Londonderry, singing DJ, Pat Derry made a couple of guest appearances at clubs, whilst holidaying in the north. At Inverness, he was ably backed by The Pridemen, from Dungannon. I was very impressed by the improvement in The Pridemen, who now have a much clearer sound and a very varied country repertoire.

● I had my first opportunity to hear ex-Country Jays leader, doing his solo act, and came away impressed.



● I made my first ever visit to the Peterborough Festival. Highlights, for me, were Dwight Yoakam, Lore & The Legends, and Britain's own Frank Jennings, with his version of 'Carmen'.

● Back, north of the border, in direct contrast, to the apparent, recent Murrayfield Fiasco, Edinburgh included five country shows during its International Festival, and the good news is, the shows were so successful, that the management of the Festival Club, have approached me to present two full weeks of country music entertainment, during the 1987 Festival. Artists appearing on this year's show were: Jolene & Barry, Tucson, Scot's Country Comfort, The John F Stone Band, and Route 65. So we have them to thank.

● Eric Peebles, of the Burn CMC, in Kennoway, Fife, informs me that he and fellow Burns member, Willie Docherty, raised £130 for club funds by walking across the notorious West Highland Way, and I'm pleased to report that the Tucson Club have had a good month with visits from Irish band, Coffee & Cream, Hamilton's Power, The Louisiana Hellraisers, and Bakersfield.

● My current info is that The Panhandlers CWC no longer have regular premises, but they still manage to organise occasional dances for charity. Their latest effort, at the Longstone Hearts Supporters Club, raised £350 for Edinburgh's St Columba's Hospice. The band on the evening was Big City.

● When I visited the Flag & Saddle Club, in Blake's Lounge, in Dedridge, Livingston, the band on stage were Dixie (a new group to me), but what a great sound they had. The trio consist of Pete Gordon, lead guitar/vocals; John Jackson, drums/vocals; and Neil Adams, keyboards/vocals. They are, perhaps, better

Johnny's self-contained solo act combined with his Country & Irish Disco, is one answer to a complete night's entertainment.

● The name, Positively Negative, does not instantly conjure up the idea of a country trio, but that is what they are. I heard this newest outfit, in the north recently, and thoroughly enjoyed their well-presented choice of well-known, modern numbers. The trio, who originate from The Shetlands, are now based in Aberdeen and are keen to make their mark in the country field.

● The name Centrefold is appearing more often in the country music club listings, as the two lads gain in popularity here in the north with a very strong sound from rhythm and bass and 'Japanese drummer'. Their good lead vocals plus very strong harmonies, favour the more modern traditional sounds of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ricky Skaggs, and the duo's British idol, Raymond Froggatt. (A piece of useless information, they got their name from the label of a shirt.)

● We can expect a new cassette from Lybster-based Harmony, in the not too distant future. Also, the highly popular Manson Grant & The Dynamos have a new album in the pipeline. There's a new recording due too, from Colorado . . . at the risk of being repetitive, I recently saw another fantastic show from Colorado. I'm convinced they are better now, than they have been at any time during their ten years on the road, and I'm most impressed with the number they have composed to celebrate their tenth birthday.

● Murmurs coming from a few corners of the Highlands about new venues starting regular country nights. Here's hoping, at least some of them become a reality.

● The recent first AGM of the Nairn CWC saw general committee changes. Also, it was decided to meet only every second week, during the winter months. A special vote of thanks was given to Ken and Audrey, of the Millford Hotel, who provide the club with their meeting place. If every club had the amount of back-up from the proprietors as Nairn has had, there would be less doors closing. They have been tremendous.

● Blair Atholl's AGM also saw a few committee changes. The new committee are determined to make extra effort to boost the club, which has suffered one or two 'quiet nights' over the past twelve months.

● At the time of writing, the future of Tain CWC seems very shaky, with very poor attendances recently. A pity if it has to close, its doors, as their committee have worked like beavers, fund raising, but as they say, 'What is the point in a band playing to a handful of people?'

● The only biggie this month is The Country Show, in Aberdeen, which is part of the town's Alternative Music Festival, and features Ann Breen, Joe E Hamilton & High Chapperal, T R Dallas & The Dallas Boys, and Dixie & Allon Band.

As usual, I would appreciate any news, views or comments to: Ann Carmody, 56, Kilmuir Road, Inverness, (0463) 221268.

known on the cabaret circuit as Executive Suite, but they tell me they are hoping to break into country music in a big way!

● I can report Scotland's own Hank West Band and The Louisiana Hellraisers both gave good performances at the Jack Daniels Sponsored, British Original Country Songs Showcase, during the Peterborough Festival. Also, that Isabel Reid and Albert Gallon (ex-Kentucky Rain) info they are back on the road as a full band.

● I have just received two excellent tapes from a couple of Scotland's top bands. The first is by The Louisiana Hellraisers, and features a wide selection of material the lads present on stage. It's a very good cassette, but it does not bring out the energy the band shows in its live act. The second tape is Ruby Rendall's new recording, 'Never Look Back', and is also excellent.

It includes two self-penned songs, but one is 'Ruby Red Wine', the title track of Ruby's first album. Whilst on the subject of albums, I should like to warn fans of Waylon Jennings, about an album I recently purchased. The album is entitled, 'Waylon Jennings, There Goes My Everything', and it's on the West German import label, Colorado (CLP 2/23007). I found this album in a local shop, and according to the sleeve, it had eight tracks by Waylon. I had not heard before. When I played the album, it turned out to be a very old recording of The Melody Ranch radio programme, with guest Waylon Jennings on one, or maybe two, tracks. I have returned the album to the shop, but I have still not heard from the distributors. So beware this one.

● Any news or views to: Jackie Blair, 122 Brunton Gardens, Edinburgh, EH7 5ET or telephone 031 556 9642.



SOUTHERN STYLE ERNIE SEARS

● WELL, if it wasn't for the Worthing Country Music Festival of August Bank Holiday, I'd have very little to fill this large, blank, empty space, as I sit here on the 29th August! A fully packed house on the Saturday, which I visited, courtesy of Neil Coppendale, was, it seems, the norm for this Friday/Saturday/Sunday country bash, according to organiser/presenter, Neil, who appeared out of a side door like the proverbial genie - as I walked up the Worthing Pavilion steps, in the late afternoon - wreathed in smiles and with a glow of satisfaction, the lad confirmed it was a sellout for the weekend.

● Sundown (Lancashire) opened the evening show and proved a worthy trio, with a toe-tapping version of 'Truck Drivin' Man', and a melodious contrast of 'The Cowboy Rides Away', which featured a versatile member of the outfit on flute . . . he also scrapes a nifty fiddle.

● Pedro (Berkshire) which won the group sector of Worthing's Country Music Talent Show, earlier this year, filled the next spot, and proved worthy of its win. Some nice harmonies from these lads (unaccompanied on one number), and their wry humour and comments of life, meant they went off to resounding acclaim.

● Hickory Lake, the first-class London band, with the irresistible, Vic Woodhouse, and the shape and sound of Lindsey St John (whose bodywork was attractively packaged as usual!), went off to such storming applause, that I thought Neil Coppendale might have given 'em that much-demanded encore . . . but no! However, we did hear after, the band had won the 'CMRU' award as the Most Popular British Band, in the

resurrected International Awards, and there's no doubt, this will be a popular and much-deserved acclaim.

● Bill Conlon & Emerald, from Ireland, proved better than I'd expected, with their typical (and sometimes mystifying) brand of Irish humour - splendid music and vocals. They confirmed a personal opinion that, on average, Irish bands have the edge on our local outfits.

● Chris Cody, a solo singer from Surrey, I'm afraid, did nothing for me. He had the clothes, and the style, but his voice didn't match up - perhaps nerves - but since he got a lot of applause, perhaps it's me . . . Still, if a singer can't hold a note??

● Philomena Begley closed the show with a session which pleased the crowd. If only the band who backed her, and the lady herself, had tried to balance up their presentation, I'd have gone home uplifted . . . they didn't, and I didn't. OK, OK . . . I know she's a lady with a goodclass reputation, but they seemed to be in competition as to who could outblast the others! In vain, I looked for the 'smooth' ones, although young Sarah Jory, on the pedal steel, got in some nice licks, which pleased . . . what a talented young lady she is. Yes, it's true, I decided to leave before the end of their set! However, on to other things. I heard following my item, the Rock Gardens, Southsea, are ending their run of some years, in October . . . got that from someone at Worthing who supports them?

● I note Brighton CMC has Billie Finnegan & Stagecoach this month, and USA's Moody Brothers. Then later, Canada's Grant Carson Band, and then they have another US act, Linda Cassidy (November). So, Brighton Labour Club venue, at 16 Lewes Road, is the place to be. Good beer, good food, good music, good crowds . . . Thursdays, of course.

● Somewhere along the line, I seem to have 'lost' my item on the Waterloo club, where I enjoyed a fine session, recently, featuring popular, local band Georgia, who reside not too far away from this Portsmouth-area club, which operates on a monthly basis, and who supported a full house, the night my good buddy, Mike Peters, and I paid a visit. The band, led by Dave Porter, is the one Chichester CMC's Tony



Most Popular British Band Hickory Lake.

Bleach raves about. Dave says it's cos they live near Chichester and are handy. But, on this showing, they do rate highly, entertaining a largely 'mature' crowd, with a wide variety of country and near country . . . did we detect a slightly alien Viva Espana? Still, there was a wedding anniversary going on!

● At The Maverick CMC, excellently housed at Waterloo Community Centre, I found Len - fully attired in western gear - on the door, who, with his wife Pat, has run the club for two years. They are currently moving to Leicester, so, son, Richard Graham will be in charge. As a DJ with a lot of chat, he should do a good job, he's obviously well-known and -received . . . Up coming shows include, The Ken Byng Duo, Landsdowne Country, then December brings String Fever. Interestingly and possibly unique to this region, is the display of genuine, American flags of many states, adorning the walls of this club. 'Imported and cost a bomb!' says Len Graham.

● I'll be going back to The Maverick, although it worries me slightly, that they are only into duos, good though

they might be. Hopefully Georgia will do a return booking . . . Eddie Butcher, on steel, impressed; Mick Fielder, on drums (we'd met before); Arthur Kennard, on lead; with David Porter, lead vocals; Mickie Chapman, bass . . . hope I got it right, fellers - my notes vanished in my latest move, to, hopefully, a more permanent address. My 'phone number and address? Ah yes, knew it was somewhere. Write to 65, Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, Southampton, Hants, or 'phone (0703) 455972. If you ring, give me a chance to get down the stairs from my first-floor flat! Now listen Eds, if the foregoing is a bit more in-depth, than my usual, apparently, casual scribbles, bear with me . . . there's more silence out there . . . and I'll bet the news will pour in 24 hours after our deadline. Oh well . . . oh HELL!

● Martin Thompson, from the Clair Hall at Haywards Heath, 'phoned to ask if he'd missed our October deadline . . . he had, but I hope the Eds oblige, because the Clair Hall has The Frank Jennings Show there, this month, for the start of its winter (ugh!) programme, and in November, the great Raymond Froggatt is in concert . . . See you there?

ANGLIA REPORT JOE ALLEN

● THE Lone Star CMC reopened its doors recently at its new home, The RAOB Club, in Broad Green, Wellingborough. Sec. John Holloway reports around 80 to 90 fans attended when the London-based band Amarillo provided the music. The club now meets monthly on each last Saturday. Watch out for Loose Change this month. Apologies to the Smith & Wesson outfit for printing the wrong picture last month - the band have provided us with an up-to-date photo. They are in the studio again this month to record an album of self-penned compositions.

● On the 24th, the North Reps Country Club put on a charity dance. The featured band are Clovis. A week later, there's an appearance of George Moody & The Country Squires.

● Yet again, I've news of a new country band emerging

onto the scene. This five-piece band consists of Petra Williams, vocals; Mick Connolly, harmony vocal and lead guitar; Tony & Mark Stanley, keyboards & bass, these two accomplished musicians hail from the States; and Graham Nottingham on drums and percussion, who comes from 'down-under'. They are currently performing all types of country material to please a wide range of audiences. Featured, also, are fiddle, banjo and harmonica. Interested clubs can obtain a free demo cassette by calling (02804) 528.

● Big Jim Williamson, from Luton, is due to make his CMC 'Drive' in aid of Cancer Research, at the end of October and beginning of November. He wants to visit as many clubs as possible within a set time scale, to raise money for this campaign. Anyone wishing for more details can drop a line to Jim at, No. 2 Diamond End Cottage, Nr Luton, Beds, LU2 8PW.

● Finally, for those who enjoy such things, on the 12th, there's a grand American Civil War battle display at the Royal Leamington Spa, in aid of charity.

● Thank you for all your letters. All Anglia news nice and early please, to Joe Allen, 385 Shelley Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 3EW. Or 'phone, (0933) 677352, and remember what has happened on the country scene since last month is 'News' . . . what's happening this month, or next, is probably advertising and you need to contact Head Office for that.

AVON CALLING JIM SILVERTHORN

● AUGUST has been one of those quiet months on the club scene locally, with festivals coming to the fore. So I'll start by thanking the Kruger Organisation and especially Press Officer, Warren Davies, for their hospitality over a superb weekend, at the Peterborough Festival. Always nice to meet up with old friends and colleagues. This was my first time at Peterborough, but certainly now a definite date for my annual calendar.

● Back on the local scene it's good to have Kelvin Henderson and Country Tempo back on BBC Radio Bristol, Tuesdays 6-7 pm, after the summer break. I believe Kelvin has one or two ideas up his sleeve, for more Radio Bristol country concerts, which were such a success a couple of years ago. He also hopes to get more guests on the programme of local, national and international appeal. Meanwhile, I note Lee Williams GWR show has been moved from Saturday to Sunday evening, from 8-10 pm, so to keep in touch with what's

happening, as it's happening locally, tune into these programmes and don't forget, both shows offer a free gig guide service to current country music events, but it's up to organisers to keep the radio stations informed.

● During the summer, Keynsham's Pioneer (ex Fontells) have added a regular Sunday lunchtime session to their, already highly successful Monday evenings. To ensure the continuation of this venture, if you would like a Sunday lunchtime drink, the Pioneers is the place to be.

● Wednesday's country night, at the Hambrook Inn, Hambrook, has been unaffected by the recent change in ownership, and regulars will join me in wishing the new management continued success.

● Brian Watkins' report reads thus, 'August at Coalpit Heath Country Club had a visit from a great favourite, Tony Best, who provided first-class entertainment. One of the best shows I've seen, and a fantastic night was had by all.'

● Barry, of Swindon's Silver Spur, reports that they too had two great nights, with Indiana (Oxford), and Dixie & Allon, plus The Back Room Boys (Scotland). Both shows were well supported.

● Your news and views are very much appreciated, and I would like to hear from you. Please send or 'phone: Jim Silverthorn, 11 Fry's Hill, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 4QJ, (0272) 671067.

LONDON SCENE TONY ANDERSON

● GOING around the local clubs and seeing the many aspects of country music displayed, if nothing else, gives you an insight into the many levels of talent available. We all know there are average bands, some just plain mediocre, and the downright awful groups, but we also, in this little plot of ours, have a number of country muso's, who are talented enough to stand comparison with anybody, anywhere. Therefore, the recent Peterborough Festival carried a sad note for me, with the final nails being put into the coffin of one of the best groups these shores have ever nurtured. I refer to the finest group, never to win an award - The Yellowstone Picnic Band. Even up to the last, their performance had that quality ingredient, which left you wanting more, I hope Nick and the boys find success in whatever they see as their new way of life, as the loss of no other group has saddened me as much, since the scene said goodbye to the Muskrats.

● On a happier note, this month has seen me with the Louisiana Hellraisers, three times; at Peterborough, Welling, and Charlton. Creating a modern sound may not always please all the purists, but their recent nomination in the CMRU awards proves they have earned many fans now, nationwide. Must say, I particularly liked their dedication to a certain Jack Daniels, which they have written and included in their repertoire.

● With club organiser, Joan Greenaway sunning herself on vacation recently, when I made one of my spasmodic visits to the Grange CMC, the club was in the capable hands of Mary and Marie (sounds like a double act of the 50's). One of my other reasons for visiting the club was to catch up with Freddy Jameson & Convoy. Knowing Fred as an old Thamesmead resident, I have repeatedly promised to go and watch him perform . . . and I enjoyed watching the lad twist his tonsils around a pleasing selection of standards, together with his group Convoy.

● I paid a visit to John and Jennies STC club, at Footscray recently, where Tulsa Time were providing the music, plus there was a certain amount of comedy from that most 'reverend of country muso's'. The club hasn't been going long; operating monthly, there are hopes for the New Year to go fortnightly. The venue has the space and good atmosphere to create one of the area's most popular watering places.

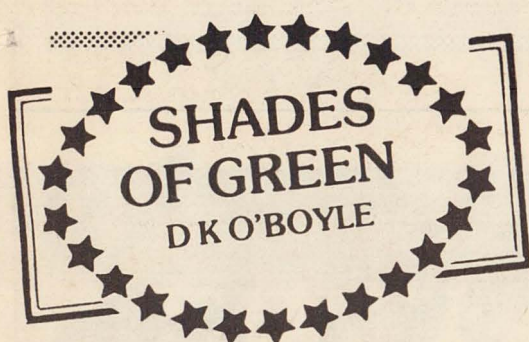
● I was sorry to hear of the recent trouble at the Norbury Hotel, home of the Silver Dollar, a club where I have spent some enjoyable evenings. Unfortunately, country suffered from something outside its control, but we bet Ray and Bernie, after taking a rest and recharging their batteries, will soon bounce back and provide the high standard of entertainment their 'club' members have grown accustomed to. A special mention, also, for Mary Allwood, who, I believe, was recently taken into hospital . . . Get well soon luv, Les still hasn't learned how to cook.

● Half Moon, Putney, you will find popular Canadian artistes, Carlton Moody & The Moody Brothers. At the Mustang Club, run by Alan Woodhouse - brother of Vic, front man of Britain's Most Popular Group, Hickory Lake - presents an assortment, including the Dave Keen Band, Freddy Jameson & Convoy, Gordie West, and Homer, during October. Grant Carson Band from Canada, find their way to the H Bar C Club . . . nice to see Billy Finnegan around again with Stagecoach. They appear at the Blacksmith Club, Epping this month . . . and don't forget, there's the 4th Annual Salute to Country Music, at the Kodak Hall, Harrow, over the weekend 25/26, featuring Brian Coll & The Buckaroos, Hickory Lake, Dave Sheriff & Nicky Clarke, Lorne Gibson, Showboat, Raymond Froggatt Band, George Moody & Country Squires, Dave Lord & Country Gold. Who said country music was going through a quiet spell???

● Was berated by Pete and Elaine Button for not visiting the Virginian Club, so I rectified that, when Country Born were playing there. This group featuring the three Lowber brothers, Martin on guitar and vocals, Rick on bass, and John on drums (whose birthday it was), also Del Barber on lead guitar, and recent addition to the group, Winston John on pedal steel, gave a programme which included many old favourites, and many songs approaching that category. I particularly liked the inclusion of Alabama material, in what must have been, my first viewing of this band in about a year.

● Finally, following the Peterborough Festival, and returning to more tranquil surroundings, my 'In Country' broadcast on Radio Thamesmead, was augmented by a visit. A recent ex-Kevin Duffy Band member, Rusty Douch - who sang several of his self-penned numbers, including 'Poor Syd', whose love of country music, Rusty extols, as he does with 'An Open Boxcar Door', 'Letter To Loretta', and 'The Plastic Bag Cowboy'. all originals, and worthy of the widest audience.

● Well, that about wraps it up for another month. See you around the clubs soon, but remember, news and info for this report, as usual to: 40 Cole Close, Thamesmead, London SE28 8AU, or telephone: 01 310 2792.



● St Dominic's Hall, in Glenties has recently closed its doors to the dancing public, after fifteen years as the favourite Saturday night dancing venue. Sadly, it's marked the demise of the last dry ballroom, in Co. Donegal. The number of dry ballrooms in Ireland has declined from 270 during the heyday of the mid-70's era, until just six survive today.

● It was back in 1971, when proprietors, Charlie McCole and Highie Boyle purchased the Hall, and on August 16 of that year, it was opened to the sound of Dermot O'Brien & The Clubmen. Over the next decade and a half, around a million dancers have been entertained in the venue . . . All the leading Irish names played there, from Big Tom, to Philomena Begley, Susan McCan to Ray Lynam. But probably the top country box office attraction was Brian Coll & His Buckaroos. Many leading international names of that era also appeared, including, Hank Locklin. However, sadly, in recent years, like many other ballrooms, the St Dominic's venue could not compete with the licensed premise entertainment. So, it was with regret that Charlie and Hughie finally decided it was time for the

'Last Waltz' in St Dominic's Hall. The venue will be sadly missed, not only by the dancing fans, but by the entertainers as well. Just like the variety halls and the big cinemas, we now see almost the complete demise of the dry ballrooms, in the ever-changing world of entertainment.

STILL THE NUMBER ONE SELLER

● Question. What is the best-selling country single of all time in Ireland?

Answer. 'One Day At A Time', featuring Gloria. This single, which made the number one slot in August 1978, spent a total of 56 weeks in the Irish best sellers list, for which Gloria was awarded a platinum disc for sales. It was the last country single to top the Irish charts. Why the question? Well, I'm sorry to report, Gloria and Mississippi are back in semi-retirement after a summer tour.

COUNTRY SOUNDS ON DISC

● Popular Wexford-based country duo, The Gillespies, have a new fun single issued, 'Molly Molone Goes Disco', a good offering from the sisters. Denis Allen has another excellent, self-composed number, 'Lonely In London', on release, another giant song. The revamped King Creole, revive the old hit of the 60's, 'Teenager In Love', as their current single. Album-wise, Big Tom has got all the old hits from, 'Four Country Roads', & '5,000 Miles From Sligo', included on his 'Around Ireland' compilation album. MCA issue the long-awaited album from Johnny McEvoy entitled 'Songs Of Ireland'. But, my own favourite hit-pick must be 'Mona Lisa', album number nine, from Hillbillies lead singer, Ray Lynam. A sure hit here from Ritz Records.



● Radio Telefis Eireann, and Radio Luxembourg are to team up to launch a new 24-hour service. Known as Radio Tara, the station will broadcast on the long-wave band, throughout Britain and Europe. The station format will be middle-of-the-road music, and hopes are that it will be on the air by late 1988 . . . Following the demise of his band, well-known singer/composer, Denis Allen, joins forces with his old mate, Bobby O'Driscoll, to form a new duo billed as Denis Allen and Bobby . . . Back from the States for a short visit is Dermot O'Brien. The former Clubmen leader emigrated there some three years back, and is enjoying success on the cabaret circuit there . . . Sad news that RTE will not televise the

10th Cavan International Song Contest, due to be staged in February 1987. The contest has a massive prize fund, and entry forms are available from, Lennon & Moloney Festival Office, Cavan International Song Contest, Drumelis, Cavan . . . We hear Sandy Kelly parts company with CBS Records after just three singles and a solo album. We are also told the Sligo-based songstress is soon to sign with a Nashville-based station, after her appearance at the Fan Fair Festival.

● Slan Go Foill. Donal K O'Boyle, Ard Aoibhionn, Bunbeg, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. (075) 31176.



● 'If you don't like Hank Williams, you can kiss . . .', a sentiment, no doubt of all fervent Hank Williams fans, and also of Hamilton's Power, which rang clear from lead vocalist Bernie, at the Rio Grande CMC held at the Pier Hotel, Mumbles. 'Tulsa Time' also stood out from these progressive up-dated lads, fresh from their conquest of the Swansea CMC the evening before. Break relief came in the form of Springfield Country, from the Newbury area, as floor guests. Thanks lads. Swansea CMC supporters turned up for this one, but where are they for the shows in general?

● A return of Memphis Short & Grand Canyon was essential after their reception on their previous appearance. A late postponement from another band meant Memphis showing earlier than planned, but proved unimportant, as, once again, this increasingly popular foursome held the evening in true Rio Grande tradition. Peter, on bass, showed he has recovered from recently enforced absence, when his place was taken by the young Helen, who did an excellent job at the OK CMC Newport. Jokes galore, informal chat from the big fella, excellent backup from Dickie and Trevor, and another good night's entertainment at this poorly-attended club.

● No club in Wales' south east region should ever operate without putting on the father of country music in these 'ere pastures, so I extended the hand of my 23 years' friendship, to Cal Ford, who brought his Brakemen along to give us a night of good entertainment. Glen Denver, who I have somehow missed seeing for eight years or so, kicked off, with a wonderful session of mainly Slim Whitman numbers, including 'China Doll'. I liked his voice. I liked his style, although his second spot wasn't up to the standard of the first, a fascinating solo artiste I can't wait to see again. Cal and his lads, who did a show in the area recently (Neath), went through their performance, which I reckon is about as country as you can get. Alan Crompton (settling in as replacement for Paul White), and the Rev. John White, are the present set up. I enjoyed every minute of the night. 'Jimmy Brown, The Newsboy', an A P Carter (Doc) song, was my pick of Cal's night.

● Back to the Cinderella Ballroom of this first-class hotel, for Dave Nash & The US Male. The deep, rich voice of Dave, came over well, with 'Old Worn Out Cowboys', and 'Today I Started Loving You Again', the latter, I begin to feel, has taken over from 'Crystal Chandeliers' as the most done to death song in this area, but if it's requested, I suppose you oblige. Chris on bass, Paul on drums, and Colin 'Golden Guitar' Mackie, did first class work, aiding and abetting, especially with that oldie, 'Ghost Riders'.

● To round up, the month, came Shaun Michael & Smokey Mountain, from Somerset. They played up to the midnight hour, with Brian leading with mouth harp, and Andy on bass. This trio sang the variety of songs requested by the biggest crowd ever, at the Collector's

Bar. (Too late, I'm afraid, to save the club.) Everyone enjoyed the show, Shaun being one of the friendliest guys in the business.

● The Pullmans Club featured the Dave Nash Trio, on a social, Saturday evening, at Davis Street, Cardiff. Confusion arose as to playing times and schedule, resulting in the trio not being on stage for long. I liked what I saw, but times should be settled, before the start of the night to avoid these disputes, which do nobody any good.

● Next, at the OK were, Nashville Fever (who, I believe to be one of the most popular outfits to hit Wales in recent years). They brought new songs, with old favourites. 'From Here To A Star', and 'Catching The Teardrops', two of my favourites, feature on their new cassette, 'Catching Nashville Fever'. 'Dixieland Delight', my No. 1 with the band, captures the whole essence of their harmony and instrumental ability.

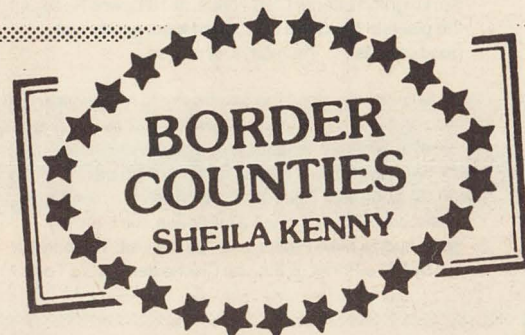
● A new band to the area, and well received at the OK club, are Steve Knight Country Band. Steve, in spite of 'Crystal Chandeliers', did enough current material to keep the fans happy, although I would have liked to hear more from the band in the way of harmonies.

● On to True Grit 2, shades of True Grit 1 and Red Eye Country Band, to say nothing of the Lee J Hardy duo (without Barry). Full-blooded country, and no mistake. The material was faultless, it's a slightly different style. 'If You Don't Love Me', is a song I never forget, even if I can't recall the name easily. A first rate five-piece, including pedal steel, made a really enjoyable evening.

● Galloped up to Ynysybwl when I heard Shaun Michael was there so, to renew old friendships, I was glad to have a great evening with the man of a thousand songs, plus Andy, and such fantastic material as 'Greenfields Of France', 'Lay Down Beside Me', and 'Stripes'. A list of songs always appears on the tables when Shaun gives a show. Some of your favourites are bound to be amongst them, such is their number and variety. Compere, Jim has a talent for singing, but didn't show it on the night.

● I made no fewer than four visits to the Santa Fe Bar, at Station Terrace, Cardiff, for the furtherance of my country education by (Ol' Man of the Mountains) Cal Ford with the Brakemen. Best numbers from Cal & Co's monthly offerings, 'Wildwood Flower', 'San Quentin', 'Give My Love To Rosie', 'Stripes', and 'Jimmy Brown, The Newsboy', country all the way . . . For the romantically inclined, two regular members, who met at this venue, Kay and Tony, got married recently after a short romance, must be something in the air. Good luck, both.

● Time to hitch my wagon again, see you soon. My star spot of the month goes to True Grit 2, at the OK CWC, Newport, for their 'Faded Love'. Frank Power, 1 Alma Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF2 5BD. Telephone, 492021.



● GOT invited to a barn dance, held near Craven Arms, by a Mr Jack Manley, who with the help of friends, raises a lot of money for local charities. Anyway, it turned out to be a great night, and with four acts on stage, and a very large turnout, it meant everyone went home happy. The opening act, local solo singer, Carl Jennings, suffered a lot of distraction, but did a fine set using nice, crowd-pleasing material. The Marlene Powell Duo go a great reception, with husband Ryder's support and Marlene had the fans with her from the off. A very polished act, with a good variety of country songs, and the ability to handle the fans well. Third act of the night, which, for my money, should have topped the bill, was Shropshire Cowboy, Jim Ryder, giving his usual class performance. The final act, Royston & Ricky Jones, were a bit noisy for my liking and did they forget to 'keep it country'?

● Info from Worcestershire-based band, Hamilton's Power, tells me they have an EP on the way, entitled, 'Still In Saigon'. Also, they tell me they will be missing from the club scene for a few months; Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, and the Azores are their next ports of call.

● Lingen CMC's August show suffered crowd-wise, but those who did turn up were treated to a great night, with Leominster-based band, Texan, plus Wolverhampton's Bobby King.

● Derby-based solo singer, Paul Rogers paid his first visit to our part of the world, doing a five-show tour. Seems Paul secured a return booking at each venue - not bad for an act which has only been on the road for a short while! The Cliffsons CMC was one of Paul's gigs, where he got a good crowd.

● Turkey Hall, at Bucknall, staged a show with a difference, when featuring the Curtis King Duo, with

Dave Curtis and Bobby King teaming up for the very first time. They slotted together, vocally, so well, they might have been doing it for years. A good range of numbers were done, plus a few instrumentals. And although this is usually more of a dancing venue, it really was a big success.

● A new club, due to get off the ground this month, is the Wild West CMC, which plans to meet fortnightly, at the Compasses Hotel, Wigmore, nr Leominster. It will run on a membership only basis, so your support would be very welcome.

● Telford's Foster Boys have made two visits to the Hereford area lately and went down well on both occasions. Noel Dillon's own songs, plus a few standards, meant these lads are finally making quite an impression on the local punters.

● Country Company are back on the road again, after a well-earned holiday. Kingston, Perrybont, Bucknell are some of the venues they played last month, to large crowds and good receptions.

● Wilf Saunders infos his End of the Trail CMC has now settled in at its new venue, at Worcester, and had four fine shows since we last spoke. Johnny Marks, with Linda & Arthur James; Tony Best (standing in for Ron Jones); Mel Hague & The Bryans; and the last one featured Cindy & Dave, plus Hoppy Horton. All were well attended.

● The Penny Black, at Knowbury, nr Ludlow, which features country shows, weekly, reports on a couple of great acts, who have appeared there lately. Telford's Big Jim Reynolds, and the Delta Dawn Trio, from Shrewsbury.

● Hereford solo country singer, Roger Wood, is a very busy lad these days, but still finds time for some charity work, the latest of which was a show for Cancer Research, at Upton-on-Severn. Roger, backed by some mates from Hereford, put on a good country show, and thanks organisers, Beryl, Tony, Mick and Brian for all their help.

● That is all for this month friends. Any regional news please to: Sheila Kenny, Sansheleam, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire; telephone (0544) 267736.



● Derby-based solo singer, Paul Rogers

ROUND THE REGIONS

LOCAL SCENE
pdate



RETFORD CMC (Fridays)
Newcastle Arms, Bridgegate,
Retford.
3 Southern Pride; 10 Bob Ovenden Duo;
17 Pete Young Duo; 24 Jon David;
31 Joe Sadio.

CIRCLE W WESTERNERS (Saturdays)
Brewer & Baker, Upper Church Lane
Tipton.
4 Delta Dawn; 5 Whiskey River (charity
night); 11 Shiloh; 18 Rio Grande;
25 Westwood.

TUMBLING SHACK CMC
(Tuesday-every 6 weeks)
Greenfield WMC, Dunsville,
Doncaster.
7 Wendel Adkins & his Band.

PROSPECT CMC (Fortnightly Fridays)
Prospect Hotel, Harrogate.
10 Dave Bryan Trio; 24 Iona & Andy.

GO COUNTRY CLUB
(Monthly 1st Sunday)
Glaxo Sports & Social Club,
Harmire Road, Barnard Castle,
Co. Durham.
5 Ruby Rendall Band; 19 Clinton Ford &
West Virginia (Autumn Special).

BIER KELLER CMC (Thursdays)
77 Piccadilly, Manchester 1.
2 Dillenger; 9 Durango & Good
Behaviour; 16 Sara Jory; 23 TBA;
30 TBA; All plus Kevin Conway, DJ 8
Towns Radio.

DOUBLE H CMC (Wednesdays)
Lord Haldon Hotel
Dunchideock, Exeter.
1 Buckboard; 8 Ricky & Ramrods; 15 Stu
Page & Remuda; 22 Shaun Michael;
29 Nashville Fever.

GUISBOROUGH QUITS CLUB
(Wednesdays)
35 Northgate, Guisborough.
1 Dealers Wheel; 8 Spill The Beans;
15 J D Band; 22 Freeman; 29 Pete Ryan
Band.

LEASOWE CASTLE HOTEL (Thursdays)
Leasowe Road, Moreton, Wirral,
Merseyside.
2 New Country Cousins; 9 Whiskey
River; 16 Wilde & Wooly; 23 Carol West
& Country Sunshine; 30 Hartford West.

BRIGHTON CMC
(Fortnightly Thursdays)
Brighton Trades & Labour Club,
16 Lewes Road, Brighton.
2 Billy Finnegan & Stagecoach;
9 Spellbound; 23 Grant Carson Band.

DOUBLE B CMC (Tuesdays)
Community Centre, Wycombe Road,
Studley Green, Stokenchurch,
Bucks.
7 Spill The Beans; 14 Big Wheels;
21 Showboat; 28 Campbell's Country.

CLIFFSONS CMC (Mondays)
Railway Club, Wrexham.
6 Jeff's Talent Night; 13 Tony Goodacre;
20 Steve Francis Duo; 27 West Virginia;
4th anniversary show,
Jeff Clifton resident host

CONS COUNTRY (Saturdays)
Immingham Conservative Club
Kings Road, Immingham Sth Humbs.
4 Country Company; 11 Clinton Ford &
West Virginia; 18 Carolina; 25 Rogue
Band.

BORDER PATROL CWC (Fridays)
c/o The Irish Club, Basildon Road
Laindon, Essex.
3 Brett; 10 Alberta; 17 Showboat Country
Band; 24 Hickory Lake; 31 Rio.

NEW CROSS KEYS HOTEL (Mondays)
High Street, Yarm
6 Norwood Duo; 13 Country Cool; 20 Jan
Mark & Norman Russell; 27 Memphis
Short & Grand Canyon.

THE END OF THE TRAIL CMC
(Alternate Saturdays)
Perdiswell Sports Centre,
Billford Road, Worcester.
4 Nashville Fever; 18 Ron Jones &
Blackjack County (Awards Show).

ABERDEEN CWC (Tuesdays)
The Hotel Metro, 17 Market Street,
7 Burnt Ash & Harmony; 14 Susan
McCann & The Storytellers, Jolene &
Barry; 21 T R Dallas & The Dallas Band,
Country Breeze; 28 Colorado, Country
Ramblers.

INVERNESS CWC (Tuesdays)
Pharoahs, Inverness Ice Rink,
Inverness
7 Jolene & Barry, John C King; 14
Country Edition; 21 Gerry Ford &
Gambler; 28 Duke Boys.

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Tompall Glaser - 'Nights On The Borderline' - £8.99
Reba McEntire - 'Whoever's In New England' - £8.99

**J & E
RECORDS**

HIGH LANE CMC (Saturdays)
High Lane Cons. Club, Buxton Road,
High Lane, Stockport.
4 Cross Country; 11 Stu Page &
Remuda; 18 Wendel Adkins, Buckskin,
Randy Blue & Deepwater, at Mirrlees
Club, Hazel Grove, Stockport; 25 Pete
Ryan Band.

BLAIR ATHOLL C&W CLUB (Monthly)
Village Hall, Blair Atholl.
31 Centrefold & Mackie.

HAZEL GROVE CMC (Sundays)
Reform Club, Napier Street
Hazel Grove, Stockport.
5 Stroller; 12 Bob McKinlay & Dixie
Fried; 18 (Special, see High Lane CMC);
19 Nashville Fever; 26 Billy Finnegan &
Stagecoach (All ticket show).

HIGH PEAK CMC (Monthly)
Railway Hotel, Bridge Street
Buxton, Derbys.
24 Don Keyworth & Top Country Sound,
Jim Ryder.

WHITE HART HOTEL
Sleaford, Lincs.
(Monthly)
24 Ann & Ray Brett Trio, Ron Ryan.

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WHITEHORSE CMC
(Fortnightly Fridays)
Labour Club, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.
3 Wilma Jones; 17 Vision Country.

TUCSON (Mondays) Edinburgh.
The Berry Suite, Abbey Lane
6 The Ruby Rendall Band; 13 Burnt
Ash; 20 (5th anniversary) Gerry Ford &
Gambler, John F Stone Band, Vision
Country; 27 Tommy Truesdale & The
Sundowners.

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Fridays)
The Albion, Lichfield Road
3 Buckskin; 10 Stone Creek; 17 Whiskey
River, Miki & Griff; 24 Bromford
County; 31 Pinkerton's Colours.

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Saturdays)
The Crest Hotel, Birmingham Road
Walsall, West Mids.
4 Jeanie & Steppinstone; 11 Foster
Boys; 18 Blazing Saddles; 25 Perfect
Strangers.

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC (Sundays)
The Black Horse, Thompson Ave
5 Nashville Fever; 12 Dave Bryan, Pat &
Roger Johns; 19 Campbell's Country;
26 Spill The Beans.

ROSSINGTON LABOUR CLUB
(Mondays)
Garrison Lane, Rossington, Doncaster
6 Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried;
13 Clinton Ford & West Virginia;
20 Carson Trucking Co; 27 Gordie West.

THE WELCOME CMC (Sundays)
Greyhound Hotel, East Lincs Road,
Leigh.
5 Cross Country; 12 Bourbon; 19 Lodi;
26 TBA.

HARROW CMC (Thursdays)
Morritts (Adj to Wealdstone FC)
Station Road, Harrow, Middx.
2 Stu Page & Remuda; 9 Manson Grant &
The Dynamos; 16 Billie Finnegan &
Stagecoach; 23 Buckboard; 30 George
Moody & Country Squires.

DORMANS ATHLETIC CLUB
(Thursdays)
Oxford Road, Middlesbrough.
2 Moody Bros (USA); Mon 6 (special)
Wendel Adkins (USA); 9 Dallas
Cowboys; 16 Ben Reece Band; 23 TBA;
30 Memphis Short & Grand Canyon.

THE STABLES CMC (Saturdays)
Royal Oak, Bond End,
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.
4 Jolene & Barry; 18 Bob Alison.

COUNTRYMAN CMC (Saturdays)
Newtown, Longnor, Buxton,
Derbyshire.
4 Sweetwater Creek; 11 Sundown; 18 No
show; 25 Lazy Daisy Country Band;
29 (Wed special) Johnny Marks.

ELGIN CWC (Fortnightly)
St Leonard's Hotel, Duff Avenue,
Elgin.
9 Burnt Ash; 23 TBA.

BORDER BADLANDS COUNTRY CLUB
(Monthly 1st Sunday)
Auld Smiddy, Gretna Green.
5 October, Scotts Country Comfort.
9 November, Colorado.

GLASGOW'S GRAND OLE OPRY
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
2/4 Govan Road, Paisley Road Toll
Glasgow.
3 Western Front; 4 Bakersfield;
5 Tommy Truesdale & Sundowners;
10 Vegas Country; 11 Duke Boys;
12 Cotton Mill Boys; 17 Gambler;
18 Ruby Rendall; 19 Country Breeze;
24 Gringo; 25 Buckskin; 26 Route 65;
31 The Walltons.



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IPSWICH CWC (Wednesdays)
c/o Bridge Ward Conservative Club
Austin Street, Ipswich.
8 Garner Tye Country Band; 15 Country
Law; 22 Bob Mac & Red River Country;
29 Rose A.

BAR 6 CMC (1st & 3rd Saturday)
Cadbury's Bournville Club,
Bournville Lane, Birmingham.
4 Shiloh; 18 Raymond Froggatt Band.

HULL CMC (Fridays)
(Olivers) 2 Norfolk Street,
Beverley Road, Hull.
3 Jim Ryder; 10 Dillinger; 17 Randy
Blue & Deepwater; 24 Dick Edwards
Duo; 31 Black Spur Road Band.

SOUTHERN STAR CWC (Wednesdays)
Europa Lounge, New Road, Ayr.
1 Country Dawn; 8 Vision Country
Music; 15 Skin & Bone; 22 Bakersfield;
29 Gambler.

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PONDEROSA (Fridays)
Pine Mine, Stowmarket.
3 Spellbound; 10 Clancy; 17 Eddie Lee &
Country Friends; 24 Western Rodeo
Band; 31 TBA.

CADES COUNTY CMC (Fridays)
Shireoaks MW, Shireoaks
Worksop, Notts.
3 Mick Conlin Band, Shotgun;
10 Dick Edwards Trio; 17 West
Virginia; 24 Naden Brothers; 31 (12th
anniversary night) Raymond Froggatt

YORK CMC (Thursdays)
York City Arms, Fawcett Street
York.
2 Les Close Duo; 9 Clint's Collection;
16 Jan Mark & Norman Russell;
23 Gordie West Duo; 30 Shack Band.

BRAMLEY SOCIAL CLUB (Thursdays)
Cross Street, Bramley, Rotherham.
2 Desperado; 9 Boothill Boys; 16 Shack
Band; 23 Sam Pegg Country Band;
30 Blackspur Road Band.

WILDWOOD SOUTH CMC (Saturday)
Millbrook Sch, Lower Brownhill Rd
Maybush, Southampton.
4 Spellbound; 11 Cactus Jack; 18 Rio;
25 Tony Bakersfield.

QUEEN BESS CC (Thursdays)
Queen Bess, Derwent Road
Ashby, Scunthorpe.
2 The Nashville Six with Ronnie Bennett
& Phil Brady; 9 BC & Lainey; 16 Country
Tandham; 23 Gordon Lemondine
Duo; 30 17th anniversary show.

GOLDEN WEST CMC (Sundays)
Carpenter Arms, Fenton
Lincoln.
5 Iona & Andy, Sarah Jory; 12 Dick
Edwards Duo; 19 Stone Creek; 26 Gordon
Lemondine Duo.

BROKEN HORSESHOE CMC (Weekly)
North Wingfield WMC,
36 Chesterfield Rd, North Wingfield
1 Cathy & Dave; 7 Ken & Billie Ford;
15 Tony Goodacre; 22 Silver Wheel
Express; 29 Bob McKinley & Dixie Fried.

BORDER CMC (Monthly)
Black & Gold Social Club
Shielfield Park, Tweedmouth
Berwick-on-Tweed.
14 Burnt Ash.

**COLCHESTER CMC (1st & 3rd
Thursdays)**
Woods Leisure Centre, Colchester.
2 Cotton Mill Boys; 16 Billy Finnegan &
Stagecoach (charity night).

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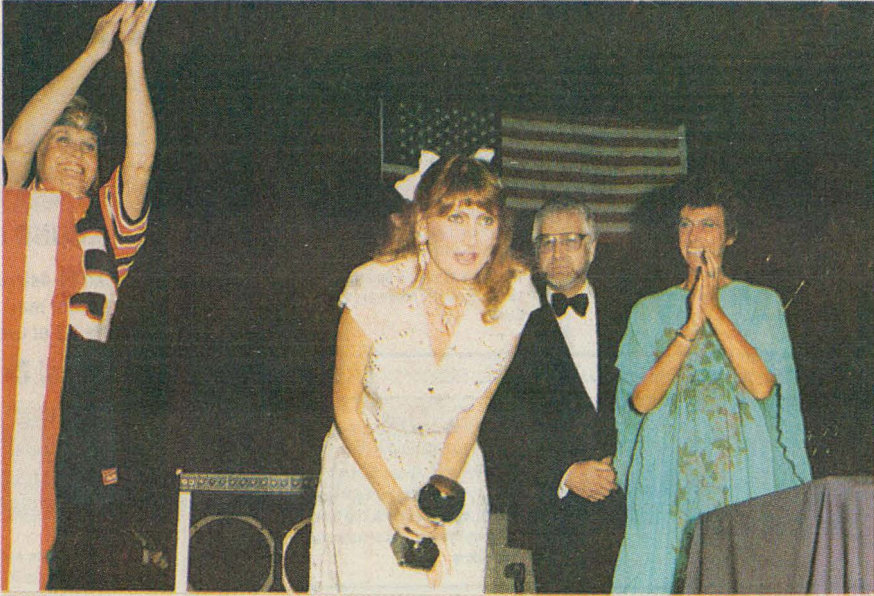
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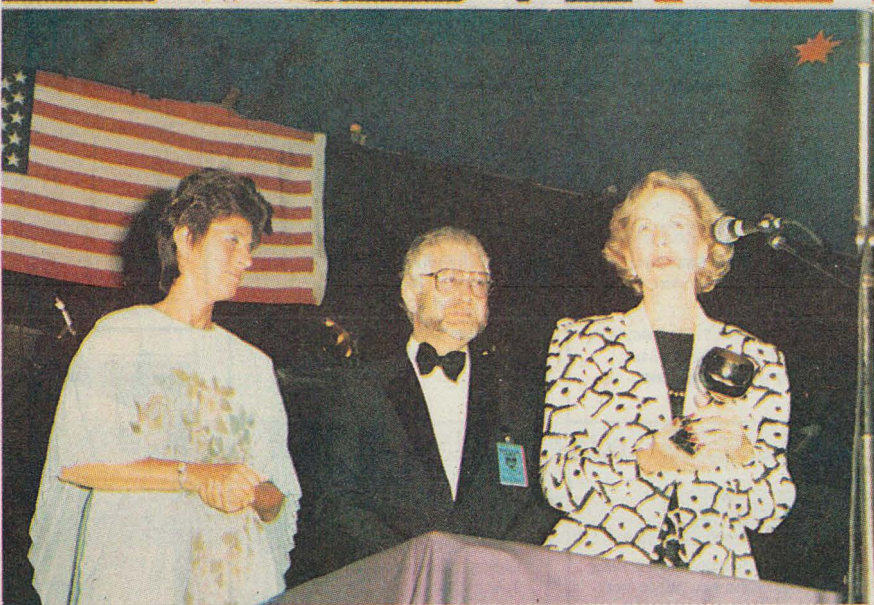
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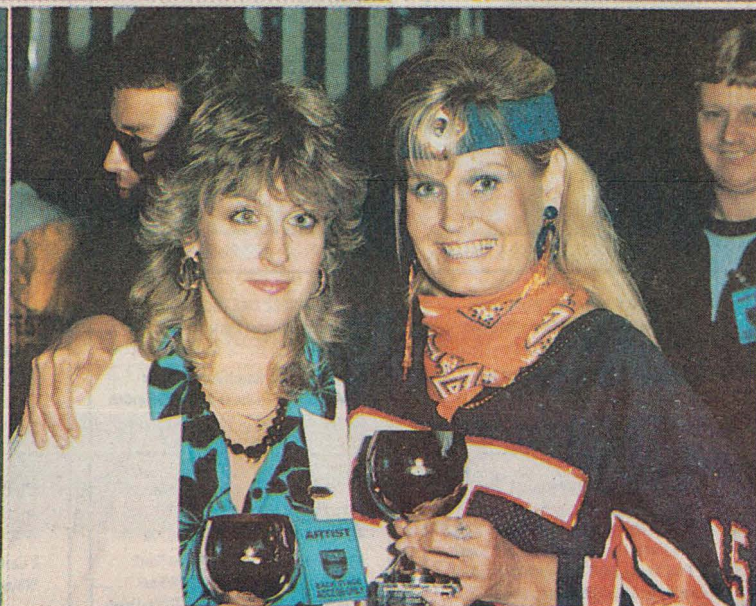
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